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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-004 *6 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th: Agreement on Elections Details 'Very Close'

JN0501124095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, held a news conference at noon today in Gaza City. During the news conference, Dr. Sha'th spoke about the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and head of the Palestinian Authority Yasir 'Arafat will, next week, start discussing the deployment of the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] in the territories as a prelude to holding the elections.

[Begin Sha'th recording] The issue of Israeli redeployment and withdrawal from the Palestinian cities, villages, and population centers in the West Bank will be discussed by a committee led by the two heads, President Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This has been agreed upon during the meeting between Shim'on Peres and President 'Arafat in Gaza. We expect the meeting to take place sometime next week, or in 10 days at the latest if a new meeting takes place next week between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and President 'Arafat. At any rate, we have agreed that I will keep in touch with Mr. Shim'on Peres in the next few days to fix a date and venue for the meeting next week, so the two heads will define the major outlines of the Israeli redeployment. This is the major task of the negotiations, which falls under the two heads directly. At the same time, or the following day, the Elections Committee will continue its negotiations in Cairo. As you know, the Elections Committee is led on the Palestinian side by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. The committee has stemmed from this framework of negotiations, and it will meet sometime next week in Cairo, most likely on Wednesday. In addition, I want to reiterate a statement I made in Cairo two weeks ago after the meeting of the so-called Concept Committee or the General Committee of Negotiations—the thing that was said by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last week—and what was said by Shim'on Peres during the meetings of the liaison committee—that we are very close to an agreement on the details of the elections, including the form of the elected council, the number of its members, their powers, and the mode of supervision. There are still some problems, especially the right of the people in Jerusalem to nominate themselves for the elections. This issue has not yet been settled. Of course, their right to vote has been settled and is clear, but there are a few things that need clarification. In general, there are no major obstacles to arriving at a detailed agreement on the concept of the elections and the details of their holding. [end recording]

Dr. Nabil Sha'th urged the government of Israel to release Palestinian prisoners. He said he will not attend or take part in the meetings of the Higher Liaison Committee unless the prisoners are released or this issue is put on top of the agenda of the committee.

[Begin Sha'th recording] I personally will not attend another meeting of the Higher Liaison Committee if the release of the Palestinian prisoners, male and female, does not begin. [end recording]

Peres Proposes Compromise Formula on Safe Passage

TA0501132995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel relayed to the Palestinian Authority [PA] a compromise formula which could shortly enable the opening of the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho, Israeli sources said at the end of the meeting of the liaison committee in Cairo on Tuesday [3 January].

The Palestinians have persistently been raising the safe passage issue in the talks in recent months and have accused Israel of delaying its opening.

The cause for the delay has been the disagreement between the sides about the freedom of movement of Gazans going to Jericho and subsequently proceeding to other locations in the West Bank. Israel demanded to impose controls on such movements in order to prevent Gazans who are banned from entering the West Bank from taking advantage of the free passage to go to Jericho and subsequently to move throughout the West Bank freely, without the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] knowledge.

The Palestinians accused Israel of trying to impair the territorial contiguity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which was specifically stipulated in the Declaration of Principles. Sari Nusaybah, who joined the Palestinian delegation, said it had been easier for him to travel from Jerusalem to Gaza and Jericho prior to the Oslo agreement.

The disagreement over the safe passage centered on the arrangements for the movement of Gazans from Jericho into the West Bank. The Palestinians demanded that the agreement state that everybody is free to move about, except those banned from entering the West Bank. In contrast, Israel demanded that movement from Gaza into the West Bank via Jericho would be permitted only to people who meet specific criteria, such as PA members and employees, Palestinian policemen on duty, elderly men, women with children, and people holding entry permits to Israel.

In the talks in Cairo two days ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres proposed a compromise formula which combines the demands of both sides. Sources in the

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Israeli delegation assess that an agreement based on the new formula could be attained soon.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal proposed to the Palestinians to operate the safe passage for a trial period of six months according to the criteria set by Israel, at the end of which both sides would reassess the situation. Shahal noted that the Israel Police are ready to deal with the safe passage when it opens. [passage omitted]

Accord Said Reached on Golan Early Warning Stations

TA0501184795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Syrian journalist known for his excellent connections with the regime in Damascus has written that Israel and Syria have agreed in principle to the stationing of Israeli early warning stations on the Golan Heights and Syrian early warning stations in the Galilee.

Israeli sources have confirmed the gist of the report to our political correspondent, 'Imanu'el Rosen. The sources explained that the Syrians are prepared to accept the idea of early warning stations on the Golan Heights but are still not prepared to have the stations manned by Israelis.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Interior Ministers Meeting Reported

Egyptian Minister Gives Address

NC0401172295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, 4 Jan (MENA)—The 12th session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council opened here at noon today to discuss ways to support Arab security cooperation and combat organized crime, terrorism, and the illegal use of drugs. [passage omitted]

In his address to the meeting, [Egyptian] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said Egyptian security services had managed to lay their hands on all the terrorist hotbeds and to mobilize the Egyptian public against this serious phenomenon.

After that, he said, the security services dealt several successful, successive blows to all terrorist hideouts. Their pillars began to fall apart, and all their activity came under security control.

Al-Alfi stressed that terrorism is being sponsored by suspect organizations and its cells, formed by a group of people sick for power and lusting for money. These people are swimming in the blood of innocents to satisfy their lust for power at any cost, and they hide behind religion, he said.

Those terrorists, al-Alfi added, are being assisted, intentionally or unintentionally, by some Arab and Islamic establishments, who collect alms from Muslims and send them to the terrorist groups, which in turn use the money to form terrorist cells.

He added: It has been ascertained that the International Organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, which uses religion as a cover in its attempt to seize power in the Arab and Islamic countries, supports and backs terrorist movements everywhere to realize their objectives and ambitions and distract the various regimes from watching their intensive and organized activity throughout the world.

The interior minister said Egypt, at the beginning of the new year, senses a great danger to many Arab countries from destructive terrorism. This is not a prediction of the future as much as it is based on knowledge and information available to the Egyptian security services, he said.

Al-Alfi warned the countries that disregard this warning that they will be the first to suffer from the flames of terrorism, which consume everything.

He pointed out that Egypt had warned some countries against the danger of the presence of those organizations on their territory, but they had ignored it, believing that terrorism will not hit them.

These countries have recently realized that we were right, he said, and they know for sure that those organizations seek destruction and sabotage everywhere. [passage omitted]

No Agreement Said Reached on 'Terrorism'

LD0501150295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1431 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, KUNA, 5 Jan—The Council of Arab Interior Ministers concluded its 12th session here today without reaching agreement on a proposal put forward by Egypt on the fight against terrorism.

The final communique, which was distributed by the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers—a copy of which was obtained by KUNA—said that the participants adopted a resolution "which provides for the redrafting of the bill put forward by the Arab Republic of Egypt defining the code of conduct in the fight against terrorism. The decision was made in the light of the views expressed and remarks made at the session. The final version of the bill will be presented to the council at its next session." [passage omitted]

The communique also says that the participants accepted the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros as the 22d member of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers. [passage omitted]

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Anti-'Terrorist' Code of Practice Redrafted

LD0501191395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 12th session of the Arab interior ministers ended in Tunis today. The final communique of the session projected the important, positive, and objective discussion of the agenda and the resolutions that had been taken aimed at consolidating the path of the joint Arab security action and bolstering its bases and supports. The communique said that Dr. Ahmad Bin-Muhammad al-Salim was unanimously elected secretary general of the council for a further three years.

The communique welcomed the newly admitted member the federal Islamic Republic of Comoros to the council membership.

The communique confirmed that the council adopted the report that was submitted by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi interior minister, about the work of the center in 1994.

The council acquainted itself with all the recommendations of the conferences and meetings arranged by the secretariat general in 1994. It endorsed these recommendations which as a whole deal in particular with ways of strengthening joint Arab action in various security fields.

The council also adopted the recommendations of the seven-man committee which was entrusted with studying the conditions of the secretariat general and its specialized offices which tend to help the secretariat general to develop and modernize the method of work which in turn must lead to improving performance and rationalizing expenditure.

On the question of supporting and consolidating the Palestinian police, the council decided to urge member states to back and help the Palestinian police on a bilateral basis, each according it his abilities and circumstances.

In the financial and administrative field, the council agreed to the program of work of the secretariat general for 1995. In another area, the council adopted a resolution on redrafting the code of practice in combating terrorism in the light of the opinions and observations of the Arab countries concerning this which will be presented to the council in its final form at its next session.

Lebanon's al-Murr on Palestinian Issues

NC0501190095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Interior Minister Michel al-Murr said he and the Syrian and Saudi interior ministers offered to back the Palestinian police by (?providing) men and weapons instead of asking the secretary general of the [Arab Interior Ministers] Council to exert efforts for this purpose.

Al-Murr affirmed that the Lebanese proposal did not receive a lukewarm response and that the Palestinians showed readiness to pursue the talks on this proposal and to contact the Lebanese Government through bilateral talks. He noted that the Palestinians endorsed the proposal when it was put to a vote.

In a statement in Tunis, the interior minister denied knowledge of any French initiative to transfer the Palestinians from Lebanon to Gaza and Jericho. He said what has been discussed and approved by the council has nothing to do with reports in Beirut about a French initiative. [passage omitted]

He noted that Lebanon's view on combating drugs, the Palestinian police, and terrorism and separating it from national resistance in the south met satisfaction and approval and that these were the most prominent issues discussed at the conference. He thanked the Syrian, Saudi, and Kuwaiti interior ministers, who supported Lebanon's proposals. [passage omitted]

Hizballah consultative council member Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik expressed astonishment at the proposal of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minsiter Michel al-Murr at the Tunis conference to send 2,000 Palestinian fighters from Lebanese camps to Gaza to join the Palestinian police.

At a press conference he held at the Iranian news agency office in Ba'labakk, he described the Arab interior ministers conference as a conspiracy against nations and that it is doomed to failure because it does not stem from these nations' interests.

[In a similar report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 5 January says: "Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel al-Murr has announced that Lebanon proposed to the Arab Interior Ministers Council to endorse the transfer of Palestinians, with any number of personnel they want together with their weapons, from their camps in Lebanon to the self-rule areas to work in the Palestinian police force.

["In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon from Tunis, al-Murr said this proposal was disregarded by the Arab Interior Ministers Council and replaced by another motion to hold bilateral talks between the countries concerned and between each of these countries and the PLO. Al-Murr added that the Palestinians showed readiness to pursue the talks on this proposal and to contact the Lebanese Government through bilateral talks on this issue. He noted that meetings were recently held between a number of Palestinian officials and officials in the Lebanese security agencies to discuss the transfer of the Palestinian fighters."]

Saudi Arabia's Nayif on Success of Meeting

LD0501203995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the end of the 12th session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, His Royal Highness Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz made the following statement:

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[Begin recording] [Nayif] I consider this session a success. I had predicted before the meeting that it would be successful because this is the interior ministers' custom. Thanks be to God, the ministers always end up reaching a consensus on the resolutions which are presented to the council. They also succeed in pushing the security process forward. We hope that the Arab citizen, wherever he may be in the Arab world, will feel the results of the proceedings of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

In fact, I can say that everything pertaining to security is important. The meeting stressed the need to combat drugs. The entire world is facing this scourge. The second thing is that there is a new thing which is basically linked to security, namely the position [as heard] or the need for all interior ministries to work toward assessing terrorism and determining exactly what the interior ministries in the Arab states need to do to combat this phenomenon.

[Words indistinct] to reject the mistaken idea that Islam has anything to do with this subject [terrorism]. Islam is a religion of peace, love, and a religion of safety. Therefore, God willing, work will be undertaken to clarify this subject to show the world what Islam is and what its position is on this state of affairs which exists throughout the world. Thus, we will remove the distorted image which is given by the enemies of Islam.

Every now and then we hear news that some people carry out such acts: these acts have nothing to do with Islam and anyone or any side which speaks in the name of Islam on this subject. We say to the whole world that as Muslims we reject this because Islam is the religion for mankind until the Day of Judgement, as God's Book taught us and as his honorable prophet, God's Peace and Prayers be upon him, taught us. God willing, the interior ministers will succeed in this important work in the results of their next session.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Nayif] This is in fact one of the main recommendations. There are the other recommendations which I have talked about, concerning all security areas, foremost among them the fight against drugs, support for the implementation of the Arab security strategy, and Arab cooperation in all security areas. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Algeria's Cherif 'Very Satisfied'

LD0501214695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Tunis at the Arab interior ministers' conference, the Algerian interior minister's efforts in the sphere of combating terrorism and of the work for restoring public security met with the unanimous agreement of all the Arab interior ministers. About the proceedings of today's meeting here is the television correspondent:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] The most important point on which the conferees reached agreement was the initial agreement to form a committee composed of representatives of the Arab interior ministers which will devote its work to polarizing the ideas and recommendations on confronting the phenomenon of terrorism, stemming from the Egyptian-Algerian proposal which has been backed by a group of Arab states.

The Algerian delegation has tried with the cooperation of other delegations to have the results of this committee's work debated at an extraordinary and emergency session of the council in July. In this framework and immediately after the conclusion of the session, there was a quadripartite meeting of the Algerian, Egyptian, Tunisian, and Libyan delegations. It was held to coordinate among themselves the speeding up of the implementation of the recommendations.

[Begin Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif recording] About today, frankly, I am very satisfied when I say that the results of this session were positive. They were positive for several reasons:

First: The Arab brothers listened to us with great interest when we touched on analyzing the conditions in Algeria. We stressed the gravity of the plague of terrorism and the possibility of its spread to all the Arab countries.

Second: For the first time, the subject of terrorism was included in the agenda of the Arab Interior Ministers Council which did not, as is customary, confine itself to timid condemnation, but decided to form a government team which will immediately study and finalize a code of conduct which is binding on all the Arab countries in the field of combating terrorism, bearing in mind that the working team will be formed before the end of the current month so that we can hold an extraordinary session of the council.

Three: Algeria was able to introduce a new method of action in the work of the council, based on commonsense, realism, and pragmatism.

Four: Through bilateral meetings which I had with a number of ministers and colleagues, one fact became clear to me, namely that all feel the gravity of the phenomenon of terrorism and the need to confront it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Alexandria Summit, 'Upcoming' Saudi Summit Seen

JN0501220095 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 Jan 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD, news agencies—An Egyptian Foreign Ministry source has informed AL-ITTIHAD that a second Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian summit will be held in the first week of February in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The summit will be preceded by a meeting by the foreign ministers of the three countries to be held in either Saudi

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Arabia or Syria in the first half of January to coordinate efforts to reestablish Arab solidarity in implementation of the directives issued by the Alexandria summit that brought together King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

A media source in Damascus has described the Alexandria summit as the "most important Arab event in the past 50 years." It has been announced in Cairo that 'Arafat will visit Egypt to learn of the outcome of the tripartite summit. Moreover, Mubarak will receive Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Tuesday to inform him of new proposals Damascus has made in order to activate negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. For his part, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid brought forward the date set for the beginning of his Gulf tour, which he will now start tomorrow, Monday.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia began over the past few hours contacts with some Arab states and the United States as part of efforts to implement the resolutions of the tripartite summit pertaining to clearing the Arab atmosphere and supporting the Arab parties involved in peace negotiations with Israel.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, a responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry asserted that the foreign ministers of the three Arab states have agreed, upon the instructions of the three leaders, to draw up a detailed plan of action for moves on the Arab scene to be implemented over three months.

The source added that the foreign ministers of the three states will meet in either Saudi Arabia or Syria in mid-January to coordinate efforts and agree on Arab tours to inform the Arab states of the goals of the new moves, discuss with them aspects related to clearing the Arab atmosphere, and know about the views and demands of each and every Arab side, and also about the possible contributions each side can make to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation.

In addition, special envoys of the three leaders will be sent on tours for the same purpose. Once all this is done, a mini-summit will be held in Saudi Arabia in the first week of February prior to a meeting due to be held by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories next month.

The Arab League secretary general is scheduled to attend the Saudi Arabia summit to inform the three leaders of the outcome of his tours in the Gulf and Arab Maghreb states, and also of the results of his contacts with Iraq. During the Alexandria summit, 'Abd-al-Majid pledged to convince Iraq to implement what has yet to be implemented of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to Kuwait. Once this objective is achieved, the proposed move of amending the Arab League Charter and promoting its performance will be examined.

AL-ITTIHAD learned that the Arab League secretary general will meet with Nabil Najm, Iraqi delegate to the Arab League, in Cairo today. The Arab League chief will ask the Iraqi official to deliver a message to the Iraqi leadership, asking it to urgently implement what has yet to be implemented of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to Kuwait, and to resolve outstanding issues, including the immediate and unconditional release of the Kuwaiti and other Arab prisoners held in Baghdad jails in light of recent developments. The message also urges Iraq to accept the resolutions of Arab legitimacy, particularly the Joint Arab Defense Pact. It also asks Baghdad to issue a new clear Iraqi statement, expressing its respect for the rights, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all Arab states, and vowing not to interfere in their domestic affairs again.

The moves to be made in this regard will be made on two tracks. The first track will be used by the Arab League under its Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and several assistant Arab League secretaries general. The second track will be used by the three countries; specifically, by the foreign ministers of these countries and their top aids and special envoys.

The efforts to implement this plan of action will start tomorrow. As for the Arab League secretary general, he brought forward the date set for the start of his visit to influential Arabian Gulf countries, such as the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. During his visits to these countries, he will review with their officials the outcome of the Alexandria mini-summit, as well as the Arab League's plan and efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere. He will also make a similar tour of the Arab Maghreb states to discuss with their officials the possibility of the Arab League, with the support of the three countries that attended the Alexandria summit, calling for an Arab summit during the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the league in March, or a few months later.

A special committee comprising diplomats, politicians, and legal officials of the three countries will be asked to draw up a clear proposal regarding the ways to promote the Arab League so that it may be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers during the league's ministerial council, due to be held in March.

AL-ITTIHAD learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that the Arab League secretary general and the foreign ministers of the three countries will promote a new strategy during their tours of Arab capitals. During these tours, they will call for supporting the Arab sides engaged in the peace process. They will also urge the Arab states to postpone the establishment of any joint economic or investment projects with Israel. Likewise, they will demand the postponement of diplomatic and political normalization with Israel. Furthermore, they will call for postponing or suspending any decisions by Arab states to open liaison offices or interests sections in Israel pending

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the completion of peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations and the achievement of some progress on the Palestinian track.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that Egypt sent a message to Washington through U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker, informing it of the outcome of the Alexandria summit, and urging it to intercede with Israel to make it allow for progress in the peace process. Otherwise, a joint Arab stand on Arab-Israeli peace negotiations will be taken.

The Egyptian message also included several fresh Syrian proposals the Syrian president communicated to President Mubarak regarding withdrawal from the Golan, security arrangements, and the normalization process. Egypt will send these proposals to Israel so that the latter may examine them and come with the replies, which are expected to be brought by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during the meeting he is expected to hold with President Mubarak on Tuesday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with 'Abd-al-Majid, and discussed with him the means to promote the Arab League's role prior to the latter's departure on a Gulf tour tomorrow. Kuwait will be the first leg of 'Abd-al-Majid's Gulf tour. Afterward, he will travel to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Musa said that the talks with 'Abd-al-Majid addressed the outcome of the Alexandria summit, "particularly with regard to promoting the Arab League's performance in the next phase." [passage omitted]

Arab League Discusses Israeli Settlement Drive

NC0501123095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0957 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Council held an emergency meeting this morning at the level of permanent representatives to discuss the Israeli settlement drive in the occupied Arab territories and its effect on the peace process in the region.

The meeting was chaired by Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's permanent representative and ambassador to Cairo, in view of the fact that Jordan is the chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council.

'Adnan 'Amran, Arab League assistant secretary general, delivered a speech on behalf of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in which he affirmed that the recent Israeli measures constitute a direct threat to the peace process. He called for a unified and effective Arab stance to defend Arab national security as a whole, indicating that Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is a means by which it wants to keep its nuclear weapons as a source of permanent terror and a threat to the security and stability of the region.

'Amran praised the Alexandria summit and its positive results, affirming that the Arab League considers the restoration of Arab solidarity a top priority.

Nayif al-Qadi, chairman of the meeting, delivered a speech in which he affirmed that silence cannot be maintained over Israel's irresponsible and provocative behavior toward the Palestinian people. He called on the co-sponsors of the peace process to exert efforts to compel Israel to implement UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. 465. He affirmed that peace is an Arab strategic option and that the Israeli settlement drive threatens the peace process and divests it of any real meaning.

Palestinian Envoy on Israeli Settlement Activity

NC0501201995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative at the Arab League, has declared that Israeli settlement activity is a major obstacle to peace.

In remarks to reporters today, Subayh said that increasing the number of Jewish settlements in the West Bank contradicts the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He pointed out that the leading figures in the Israeli settlement movement are resorting to a new plan including the construction of housing units inside existing settlements. According to reports, local settlement leaders are seeking to establish a fait accompli in the West Bank by increasing settlements and settlers. Subayh pointed out that according to statistics, the number of Jewish settlers increased by 10 percent in the first half of 1994.

He added that 2,460 dunams of land were confiscated between 10 October 1991 and 12 September 1992, 874 housing units were built, and 2,908 fruit trees were uprooted.

Subayh said that he had submitted a detailed memorandum to the Arab League Council's extraordinary session, which was held today. The memorandum included maps explaining Israel's settlement activities in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Threatens To Boycott Talks Over Prisoners

JN0501190395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has threatened to boycott the negotiations with Israel if it continues to detain about 6,000 prisoners who are still in Israeli prisons.

During a news conference he held in Gaza, Dr. Sha'th said that he will not attend any meeting for the Palestinian-Israeli liaison Committee unless all male and female prisoners are released from Israeli prisons and detention centers.

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Dr. Sha'th revealed that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet in ten days. This meeting will be preceded by another one between President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Dr. Sha'th noted that redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West is a basic condition before holding the legislative elections.

Sha'th on Preliminary Findings in Erez Incident

JN0501122895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli committee investigating the killing of three members of the Palestinian Police from Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] gunfire [2 January] at the Erez checkpoint will present the results of the investigation to the head of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir 'Arafat, this evening. As for the preliminary results of the investigation, they indicate that some members of the Palestinian Police ambushed the IDF soldiers. Our reporter Hasan Abu-Zayid has the details:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayid] Military sources have said that the preliminary results of the investigation of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee show that some members of the Palestinian Police force ambushed the Israeli Defense Forces personnel who passed the site of the incident.

The sources said the members of the Liaison Committee listened to several eyewitnesses, including a member of the Palestinian Police who was on the spot at the time of the incidents.

Israeli military sources said the results of the investigation will be announced this evening and that the results will be forwarded to the commander of the southern region, Major General (Sha'ul Mufat) and to the commanders of the Palestinian Police.

The session of the Liaison Committee is being attended on the Palestinian side by Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash and on the Israeli side by Brigadier General (Yom Tosamiah). The session is still in progress. The two sides are discussing ways to prevent a repeat of what has happened and to prevent further friction between the IDF and the Palestinian Police.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th commented on the preliminary results of the investigation committee:

[Sha'th] I have not yet received the results of the investigation, and I do not believe President 'Arafat has either. However, even if it is proven that there was a shooting or that a Palestinian group had planned to launch an attack, the incident should have immediately been reported to the local liaison committee, the DCO [preceding acronym in English, expansion unknown], which is almost 300 meters from the site of the incident. In the 20 minutes during which the shooting reportedly took place, a joint Palestinian-Israeli unit could have arrived on the spot in minutes. But this did not happen and the DCO was not contacted. I hope this is clear. As for who started the shooting and so forth, I am waiting for the results of the investigation. [end recording]

Security Office Denies Report of Erez 'Ambush'

JN0501185895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The public security commander's office in Gaza has denied Israeli press reports that Palestinian policemen ambushed Israeli soldiers. The same sources added that the Israeli forces are the ones who carried out this strange attack which contradicts all accords concluded between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The above-mentioned sources said that investigations on the incident are under way and that the investigations committee will announce the results as soon as these investigations are completed.

Abu-Rudaynah Denies Israeli Reports

JN0501172595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser, has denied Israeli media reports that Palestinian policemen opened fire at Israeli soldiers before Israeli forces carried out their spiteful attack on two Palestinian police border posts north of the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the martyrdom of four Palestinian security men. Abu-Rudaynah said that this incident in considered a glaring violation of the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord.

'Arafat's 30th Fatah Anniversary Address

JN0101122095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0805 GMT 1 Jan 95

[Address by PA President Yasir 'Arafat on the 30th anniversary of Fatah, "the start of the Palestinian revolution," "relayed from the Gaza studios of the Voice of Palestine radio" in Gaza—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Koranic verses] O great Palestinian people, O builders of the homeland and guardians of the dream, O steadfast people in exile and in the diaspora, makers of the splendid legends and heroism and the miracle of steadfastness. We have been accustomed to meeting on this day each year to mark an anniversary which is dear to every Palestinian, the anniversary of the start of Fatah and the beginning of the contemporary Palestinian revolution, the giant Palestinian revolution; the anniversary of the resurrection of our people and the new birth of our Palestinian identity.

Today, we renew our meeting by celebrating the 30th anniversary of a revolution which is recorded in history as one of the longest and most important of peoples revolutions in this century. Our celebration today

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acquires a new meaning and a special significance. Today, we stand on the land of Palestine, celebrating the immortal anniversary under the protection of our Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] whose foundations we laid and whose structure and roots are strengthened by us every day under the banner of our homeland and revolution—a banner which flutters high in the skies of our country.

Today, we celebrate the revolution anniversary on the soil of our home and on our Palestinian land and among our heroic masses. Today, we celebrate the blessed beginning of transforming our sacred dream into a steadfast reality, an unshakeable rock, and a firm monument on the soil of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Sisters and brothers, comrades on the long, difficult path, the path of revolution, resistance and intifadah. Looking back at the march of the past eight months which witnessed the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority, the return of the leadership and the Palestinian security forces, and the beginning of the march of building and reconstruction, we find that this march was full of events just like all critical turning points in history.

True, this birth was very difficult but this is the description of historic events. It was a phase full of complications but this had also been expected because we began a long peace process with a complicated and knotty struggle and with a big legacy of bitterness and doubt which cannot be bypassed by signing the peace of the brave between the two sides.

O great mujahid people, O masses of our great Arab nation. A comprehensive look at the march of the past months lead us to the following results:

1. The PNA has set its feet and taken root in the soil of the homeland. Palestine and its fledgling identity, which will extend to the other Palestinian territory, has become an established fact on international and regional maps.

2. The general result of the past month indicates definite success on the general level. They [not further identified] had been expecting total anarchy. Some had prepared gloating statements of mourning, expecting a struggle between the two wings of the Palestinian eagles—between those who are at home and those who are abroad. However, all of their bets fell with a resounding thud. The only hero in the whole issue was the Palestinian people with their enlightened mujahid masses. These people embraced their returning sons in a historic national celebration which will not be removed from our memories. They overwhelmed them with love and care in order to affirm the fact of cohesion between our people at home and in exile.

Our people have been the true heroes behind the establishment of their authority. They have defended and reinforced it through their discipline and the awareness of all their sectors and trends of the traditions of democratic dialogue, giving the higher national interest priority over fractional differences or interpretations. This awareness has been the wall which blocked some groups' isolated attempts to embarrass and weaken the PNA and violate our people's traditions of responsible national action. We say explicitly that our people have embraced and protected their PNA despite the existence of some shortcomings here or there. Yes, frankly, I say there have been shortcomings here and there. Thanks to their awareness, our people understand that only God is perfect, and that through seriousness, diligence, and control, control, control they can correct any mistake and amend any shortcoming. I have always said that our people are greater and stronger than all their past, current, and future leaders. They are the mentor. This conviction of mine has been reinforced during the months since my return to the dear homeland. You are the teacher and the guide. You are an infallible compass that corrects the course of the ship and its captain. As [Muslim Caliph] 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab said: May God bless whoever comes out to correct the 'Umar's mistakes.

3. The peace that we have made and the peace treaty that we have signed are still shaky. The danger posed to peace stems from the Israeli procrastination and hesitation to accurately and honestly implement the DOP [Declaration of Principles]. This procrastination, which is accompanied by practices violating the spirit and letter of the peace agreement, especially regarding Jerusalem, settlement activity, prisoners, elections, the transfer of powers, and repression in the West Bank, is a mine threatening the entire peace process. Any accurate analysis proves to everybody that any setback on the Palestinian-Israeli track will mean deeper setbacks on all other tracks. Let the world understand that this will mean total paralysis, if not the end, of the intertwined and complicated network of projects and regional, domestic, and international plans and new relations. What is required is to stop any measures contradicting the DOP, especially regarding Jerusalem and settlements, and the work to honor the commitment toward releasing the prisoners. What is required is to immediately move to implement the second stage of the agreement concerning the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank, holding the Palestinian Council elections, and transferring all powers to the PNA.

4. In its overall work and policies, the PNA has been eager to bolster our people's national unity. We have been eager to protect the democratic atmosphere and build a society which guarantees pluralism and protects the sacred human rights, especially the right to the freedom of expression under the rule of law and order. While we stress that there is no room except for one authority—the PNA—we support political pluralism and the democratic option under the rule of law. Those are among our masses natural rights and among the commitments which the PNA has to honor. On this immortal occasion, I reiterate today the call for bolstering the national unity and reinforcing it among all

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trends, sectors, and forces so as to build all together a free homeland for an honorable, revolutionary, and militant people. [Koranic verse]

5. From the outset, the PNA has worked to provide security, tranquility and stability for our masses and to meet the great challenge of rebuilding on the debris left by decades of occupation. Everyday reveals for everyone new facts about the extent of injustice, repression, and exploitation to which our homeland and people have been subjected. Regrettably, the procrastination and hesitation of donor countries to honor their commitments toward people have harmed our ability to implement the reconstruction programs and plans in the various fields. This has reinforced our conviction in and assertion of the importance of Palestinian self-reliance. At the same time, we will continue to urge the donor states to honor their commitments, for the Palestinian people are the victim of the failure to implement UN resolutions. Therefore, this is an international moral, material, political, and historical responsibility.

Despite this siege, the wheel has started to turn. The past months have witnessed success in providing security for the citizens who had suffered the absence of safety and security for decades. The past months have witnessed the beginning of the process of building institutions in our ministries and departments. Hundreds, nay thousands of our trained personnel in various fields have joined the bodies of these ministries and departments. These ministries and departments began their work and assumed responsibilities both in the PNA areas and in the other areas where we assumed authority in seven various fields.

We have the right to be proud of two experiments which won the world's admiration in the fields of health and education. These two big sectors have constituted a great challenge in terms of planning and development because of the services they are supposed to render to every Palestinian in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many predicted that we would fail but what we realized was a resounding success. The basis of university education expanded and the vocational training was emphasized. This constituted landmarks in the achievements of our authority which has been able to train more than 10,000 citizens in its various departments. It opened the way for the private sector initiatives in various fields so they may carry out their basic role in the construction process, a role which we would like to see grow and become solid.

O masses of our heroic people, O makers of the singular Palestinian epic. Today, we are advancing toward a new year in our national march, the year of diligence and renewable initiative. Diligence to realize the remaining national objectives, and the renewable initiative to wage the battle of building the homeland. Diligence to realize our demands and establish our rights to a just peace, and renewable initiative to rally the entire Palestinian people in the process of construction in political, social, and economic terms. This process will give us further strength, especially when we are approaching the final status negotiations.

The year of diligence and renewable initiative imposes on us definite tasks in terms of realizing our national aims, as well as in construction. The new year imposes on us the task of perseverance in our work to realize the second phase of the Declaration of Principles to realize the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the populous areas preparatory to holding the council's elections, assuming all powers, and solving the issue of the detainees, the return of the displaced persons, and the speedy convocation of the quadrilateral committee; and at the same time confronting any attempt to impose the status quo before negotiations on the final status. Here we stress the issue of Jerusalem. The continuing closure of the city and the continuing settlement activities (?inside it) as well as the settlement activities in general, as the case in al-Khidr and other areas, is a deliberate attempt to kill the peace process. Moreover, we have a basic task of activating the PLO establishments which will remain the symbol of Palestinian people at home and abroad and the the example to be looked for by the Palestinian Authority. This requires providing support for our masses in the steadfast camps of exile in Lebanon where people have suffered and made great sacrifices on the path of the revolution.

O brothers: We believe in the importance of reinforcing the Palestinian role in the joint Arab action. Yes, we believe in the importance of reinforcing the Palestinian role, the importance of reinforcing the Palestinian role in the joint Arab action, in order to formulate a unified Arab position free of division, dispute, and conflict. We are an integral part of that. Yes, free of division, dispute, and conflict in order to restore Arab solidarity and Arab cohesion. O brothers: We are an integral part of this Arab nation and its pains, hopes, and future.

O brothers: We have to focus on completing the legal, institutional, and living frameworks that are needed by the authority. It is necessary to quickly implement rehabilitation programs; establish infrastructure in the various areas in accordance with available plans; carry out projects to provide job opportunities; increase national production; open export markets to achieve a qualitative progress in our economy; pave the way for promoting the agricultural sectors; attract Palestinian capital abroad to invest in the homeland; implement great social programs; rehabilitate freed prisoners; promote the social security program; develop health and childhood and women's projects; advance education by implementing development and modernization plans; concentrate on municipalities, village councils, charitable committees, and how to build ministries and institutions; attract the best Palestinian skills; and complete the establishment of the main institutions such as the judiciary, the monetary authority, the development bank, the housing bank, the water authority, the energy authority, and the land authority. [passage omitted]

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We renew our pledge and loyalty to holy Jerusalem, to holy Jerusalem, to holy Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state and the key to permanent and comprehensive peace. And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth [Koranic verses]

[Signed] Your brother, Abu-'Ammar

Qaddumi Sees Israel 'Destroying' Peace

MM0501115095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 95 p 6

[Interview with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The Israeli Knesset recently ratified a law banning any official PLO activities in Jerusalem. What is your opinion of this measure and its effects on the course of the Palestinian-Israeli peace?

[Qaddumi] The Knesset's decision contravenes the accords signed with the Palestinians and the pledges offered to them through the declaration of principles. It is clear evidence that Israel, which is a fascist state, is not seeking peace. It has destroyed all peace opportunities. Its aim is to remain on Palestinian territory. And it does not want to secure a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question or the Arab-Israeli conflict. This means that we—Palestinians and Arabs—are entitled to continue our armed struggle until we liberate our land. This is another warning to people who have good intentions, namely that Israel is not honoring its agreements or pledges, and the only language it knows is force. This arrogant attitude is proof of the racism of Israel and its rulers and of the unity between the Likud and the Labor Party, since they have the same policy and the same line.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] After Israel's numerous violations of the Oslo accord—whether regarding its forces' redeployment in the West Bank, the settlements, the refugees, or the elections—what is the Palestinian alternative?

[Qaddumi] I have on many occasions said that the conflict between us and that aggressive entity is a permanent conflict unless we find a just solution to the Palestinian question. And that the just solution is represented in the full recovery of our occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, on which an Israeli resolution was issued in the Knesset emphasizing Israel's sovereignty over it. We, especially those who opposed or voiced reservations about the accord, know full well that Israel cannot withdraw from the Palestinian and Arab territories, and that it wants a price for its occupation of these territories. This is why we were fully convinced that Israel would violate the agreements concluded with it. Israel's numerous practices and aggressive behavior against the Palestinian people, in addition to the confiscation of their land, are nothing but proof that Israel is not a peace-loving state. Yesterday we watched an Arab demonstration staged against the expansion of a settlement. Brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat participated in it. He was raising the voice of truth against the Israelis, not only because they are violating this accord, but also because they are encroaching on Palestinian rights daily. Continuing the struggle—by all means—is the way to recover our national rights. There is no other way.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] That means that you support Hamas in what it is doing against Israel, when it is opposing the National Authority and even some of your Fatah colleagues who are opposed to Hamas actions.

[Qaddumi] No Fatah member should oppose Hamas, because Hamas is a national movement and part of the overall Palestinian national movement. We in Fatah say loudly that Hamas is a national movement which is entitled to operate as long as the Palestinian land is still occupied. We cannot tell our members to halt the daily national struggle against Israeli troops and the Israeli occupation. As long as there is a single Israeli soldier on Palestinian land, we are entitled to resist by all means. We never think that the brothers in Hamas are quarreling with us. On the contrary, we are fighting one enemy, so they are our brothers in the struggle.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But Israel and the U.S. sponsor are demanding that the Palestinian National Authority put an end to Hamas activities, and they consider this a condition for advancing the peace process.

[Qaddumi] Israel is an enemy seeking to provoke Palestinian infighting. This is Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's aim behind the accords he has concluded. He banked on Palestinian infighting, but he will fail and all his hopes will be dashed. Because the Palestinian people with all their national forces cannot move in that direction. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is a U.S. tendency in the Security Council to revoke the resolutions adopted by the council on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and also the resolution concerning Palestinian refugees! How would you assess the current status of the Palestinian issue as a whole in the Security Council?

[Qaddumi] The United States has failed in all its attempts during the discussion of the Palestinian and Middle East issues to change the resolutions concerning Palestine. Regrettably, despite being a sponsor of the peace process, the United States voted against the resolution concerning the Syrian Golan, as though the peace process does not concern it. It is claiming to be sponsoring the peace process, but it is at the same time hitting the positive aspects and indications proving that the

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United States is sincere and supportive of the peace process. Most regrettably, this behavior clearly indicates that the United States is also contributing to destroying the peace process.

We did not expect that from the sponsor of the peace process. Because U.S. interests should prompt the United States to work to stabilize the situation politically in order to help to safeguard its vital interests in the region. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] I believe that you are more optimistic than pessimistic as regards the question of Arab coordination. Do you still believe that coordination and cooperation with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon will return to their previous status?

[Qaddumi] The Arab region has witnessed two historic periods since 1919. In 1919, the Arab east was partitioned under the Sykes-Picot agreement. But numerous revolutions broke out in the region. Palestine was partitioned in 1948, so numerous revolutions erupted in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq. And fundamental changes took place. I expect numerous events to take place in the Arab east region.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Now?

[Qaddumi] After a period of time. Namely, when events ripen, because the popular conviction regarding the events taking place in the region does not exist, since the peoples do not believe that these events suit their requirements or prompt the mobilization of the masses in the manner in which the region's rulers mobilized their peoples at that time.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you mean that the Middle East region will witness similar changes to those experienced by Eastern Europe?

[Qaddumi] I believe that the region is approaching numerous events and troubles as a result of the Israeli position, which is destroying the peace process. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The failure to convene the Fatah Central Committee in Tunis in the middle of this month has aroused numerous questions, to the point where some people have said that the committee is not going to hold any meetings except in Gaza, as demanded by 'Arafat. What is Abu-al-Lutf's opinion?

[Qaddumi] The Central Committee has decided to continue to convene its meetings at the PLO headquarters in Tunis. And God willing, it will continue [to hold its meetings there] until our territory is liberated. Then we would hold our meetings on the liberated territory. The sovereignty over the land is still in the Israelis' hands.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about the meetings of the Executive Committee of the PLO, which is the authority to which the National Authority refers?

[Qaddumi] The Executive Committee will convene in the future, God willing. Consultations are being conducted with all the parties to convene it. Because convening it is a pressing need in order to safeguard the PLO's central institutions—which is our main task.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It seems that Palestinian-Jordanian relations are currently witnessing a crisis as a result of the Palestinian position on the question of religious jurisdiction over Jerusalem, which is an issue the Jordanian side raised at the Casablanca Islamic summit.

[Qaddumi] We asked our Jordanian brothers not to raise this question lest religious jurisdiction is interpreted as though Rabin has the claim to and sovereignty over Jerusalem, or as though he is the one that grants religious jurisdiction to whomever he wants. Regrettably, the issue was raised erroneously by the Jordanians, whom I had asked not to raise it. We have submitted explanations to our brother Jordanian officials. I believe that the situation has now improved and relations have begun to improve.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you plan to visit Damascus?

[Qaddumi] We will, God willing, work to make a visit to the Arab east as soon as possible.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How would you assess your relations with Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] Actually our relations with Lebanon are good and brotherly. We had the opportunity to meet and talk with the prime minister, but not in detail, about enhancing these relations.

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Algeria

FIS Condemns Attacks, Threats Against Foreigners

NC0501133595 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Jan 5 (AFP)—Leaders of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on Thursday [5 January] issued a statement condemning attacks and threats against foreigners, saying the "conflict is limited to the Algerian people on the one hand and the military dictatorship on the other".

In a statement received by AFP in Bonn, the FIS said it "reaffirms its adherence to its principles in condemning all acts which target innocents whatever their beliefs or religion and whoever those behind these acts are".

Top FIS official Rabah Kebir is based in exile in Germany, while the two chiefs of the movement, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, are under house arrest in Algiers.

Following threats issued to several Western embassies, the fundamentalist movement said it sees itself as a victim of a "campaign orchestrated by certain Western media destined to harm the image of the FIS, (and that of) its leaders and sympathisers."

Britain, France and Germany have in recent days all received such a letter purporting to be from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is the most radical of the factions waging war on the regime, calling on them to close their embassies by Saturday or face attack.

A Russian diplomat in Bern said Thursday that Moscow had received a similar warning from the GIA, according to the Swiss ATS news agency.

The Swiss foreign ministry and police said at least six embassies had been threatened, including those of Canada, France and Yugoslavia.

A diplomatic source said the letter, which has not been authenticated, was dated from the French city of Lyon on December 24 and posted to embassies in Switzerland from the Swiss city of Basel three days later.

The GIA has claimed responsibility for the hijacking of a French airliner at Algiers airport late last month, in which three passengers were killed before French elite forces stormed the plane after it flew to the Mediterranean city of Marseilles.

In Italy on Thursday, aviation officials said security had been stepped up at Rome's international airport to protect daily Air France flights between the Italian capital and Paris from further attacks.

The FIS statement said that "almost simultaneously, dubious communiques tending to promote the image of the conflict in Algeria being one between Moslems and followers of other religions are broadcast in the name of certain Islamic groups," the statement added.

"Neither the FIS nor even the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS, the armed wing of the FIS) have distributed such a statement," the statement went on.

It added that "dubious threatening letters addressed to certain Western states demanding the closure of their embassies in Algeria" had been written in the "interest of the military junta, certain of whose generals have hoped since November to see diplomatic representations leave Algiers so that they can get on with the liquidation of public opposition (cloaked) in media silence and without foreign witnesses."

The writers of the letters said they would kill "all non-believers in cold blood" from January 7, although US experts believed the threat could be a hoax.

The Algerian conflict, which in recent months claimed some 500 lives a week according to estimates by diplomats, began after the military junta intervened in January 1992 to call off the second round of a free general election the FIS was poised to win.

Yugoslav Embassy Reports Threats by Fundamentalists

LD0501170395 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1542 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, 5 Jan (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry on Thursday [5 January] said that Algerian Islamic fundamentalists had threatened the Yugoslav Embassy in Algiers.

The ministry said it had taken specific steps with Algerian authorities to protect the embassy personnel and their families.

International news agencies have reported that the militant wing of Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria has threatened the embassies of five states, Yugoslavia among them.

The fundamentalists have given the United States, France, Great Britain, Germany and Yugoslavia until Jan. 7 to close their embassies in Algiers or expect armed attacks.

FLN Delegation Visits FIS Leaders in House Arrest

MM0501165095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish: "Liberation Front Leadership Visits Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—In the first step of its kind since the imprisonment of Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, a delegation from the National Liberation Front [FLN] Political Bureau led by Abdelhamid Mehri has

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visited the two FIS leaders in their house-arrest residence in the Djinan El Mufti villa.

The meeting lasted about two hours. In addition to Mehri, it was attended by Abdelaziz Belkhadem, Ali Ben Melis, and Hocine Sassi. Mehri explained the FLN's circumstances, position, and call for convening a national conference with a view to halting the cycle of violence. He also threw light on the outcome of the security confrontation and its negative effects on Algeria and the future of national unity. And he expressed the FLN's criticisms of the regime's security campaigns and the blind logic governing the Armed Group's operations which has gone beyond all boundaries.

According to FLN Political Bureau sources, the meeting was very positive, and during it Madani and Belhadj assessed the FLN's position and agreed to participate in a national conference, expressing their impotence vis-a-vis the excesses taking place and stressing that, by not releasing them, the authorities have prevented them from playing any effective role to halt the Armed Group's excesses or to confront it.

The meeting between the two FIS leaders and the FLN leadership was held at the latter's request and in the framework of implementing the decision taken by the FLN Central Committee in its recent meeting, namely to make contacts with the FIS and the Socialist Forces Front.

In this context Abdelhamid Mehri will today arrive in Rome, where he is expected to meet with Hocine Ait Ahmed and Rabeh Kebir. But it is not known yet whether German authorities will allow Rabeh Kebir to travel to Rome and to return from there. However, contacts at the highest level in this connection have been conducted between Italian officials and senior German officials. The idea emerged after the Geneva meeting, but the Swiss authorities refused to grant FIS officials entry visas to Swiss territory.

The reports about the upcoming meeting, which will be held in Rome tomorrow, have provoked the military leadership and President Zeroual. Tthe leadership offered to hold this meeting in Algiers, instead of Rome. It also pledged to provide all guarantees to ensure that it is held in complete freedom. Contacts in this connection continued until late yesterday evening. But it is not known whether officials of the three fronts will accept the regime's offer or whether they will discuss the possibility of holding another meeting later.

Mehri met yesterday with Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah movement, and discussed with him the regime's offer to hold the meeting in Algiers. They also discussed the positive and negative aspects of holding the meeting in Rome. It is clear that President Zeroual's announcement of the formation of a ministerial committee to prepare for the presidential elections falls in the framework of confronting the three opposition fronts' moves and trying to circumvent the Rome meeting, so that the regime would not appear to be motionless while the opposition parties occupy the political and informational scene, internally and externally.

Justice Minister: Special Courts May Be Abolished

LD0601092895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a television interview broadcast last night, Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia said special courts in Algeria could be abolished very shortly. Mr. Teguia added: The government has put forward two draft laws to the Transitional National Council on the amendment of the criminal law and the law on penal procedures. These amendments would enable the ordinary courts to deal with cases that used to be referred to special courts.

Mr. Teguia also revealed that President Zeroual would sign a decree on clemency measures for people involved in cases linked to terrorism. This will mean that those who give themselves up to the judiciary will not be sentenced to death but will face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

FIS Candidates Banned From Presidential Election

LD0601121695 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1100 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Interior Minister Abderrahmane Cherif has announced that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will not be authorized to put forward candidates in the presidential elections scheduled to take place in Algeria before the end of the year. Why is this? The minister explains that the FIS has been banned. Cherif says furthermore that the Algerian authorities expect to prevail over the armed Islamist groups within the next eight months, end quote.

Egypt

Musa Denies Syrian Mediation Effort With Iran

NC0601105395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied reports that Syria is mediating between Egypt and Iran. He said that promotion of the Egyptian-Iranian ties hinges on the two countries. He stressed that what counts is the policy Iran is pursuing, which must be reconsidered regarding certain aspects, primarily the issue of the three United Arab Emirates islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra, because it is not in the regional interest to have this issue unresolved.

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Israel Returns Last Consignment of Sinai Antiquities

NC3012183594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1738 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—The fourth and last consignment of the Sinai antiquities taken by Israel during its occupation of Sinai arrived at the Egyptian Museum in Central Cairo this evening.

The shipment includes about 1,000 crates containing thousands of archaeological pieces dating back to various ages.

The antiquities were shipped aboard 23 trucks from al-'Arish city to Cairo. They arrived yesterday at the Rafah land border point, where they were unloaded from Israeli trucks onto Egyptian vehicles. [passage omitted]

Representative to Gaza Self-Rule Area Appointed

NC0501151595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has appointed Ambassador Mahmud Karim as its representative in Gaza.

An official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt will open a legation in the Palestinian self-rule area in Gaza next week.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, announced on this occasion that the opening of an Egyptian legation in Gaza will facilitate the travel of Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt.

Commentary Views Anti-Israel Bloc, Settlements

NC0501183195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Demanding Commitment to the Necessary Principles of a Just Peace, Should It Be Considered an Anti-Israel Act?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is clear to observers that the peace process on the Palestinian track is passing through critical circumstances. Through consultations and cooperation with the concerned parties, Egypt is doing its best to avert any negative repercussions that these circumstances might have on the entire peace operation. For it is an acknowledged fact that unless the Palestinian problem—the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict—is solved, there can be no real peace.

President Husni Mubarak emphasized this point in remarks he made after meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres two days ago. He said that Alexandria's tripartite summit was not directed against Israel as some Israeli propaganda mouthpieces tried to imply. The summit, he noted, primarily focused on ways to clear up Arab differences and to achieve Arab reconciliation and coordination to confront the current regional and international changes.

Discussing inter-Arab coordination while a comprehensive peace operation is underway between the Arab countries and Israel should not be seen as a hostile action against Israel because it is one of the parties involved in the peace process. If the Arabs adopted such a hostile attitude, they would lose their peace credentials. It is unreasonable that the Arab countries should be participating in a peace exercise with Israel and at the same time form an anti- Israel bloc.

The Alexandria summit focused on ways of boosting the regional peace process. The summit's final communique showed the three participating countries' stance on the peace process. It emphasized the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights, and the occupied Lebanese territories.

Should the Arab call to Israel to abide by the peace operation's acknowledged and legal principles be seen as a hostile act against it? It can only be seen this way if some Israelis reject these principles and imagine that peace can be established without fulfilling these legitimate demands. We can only stress that imagining that this can happen is a very big error.

We must now draw attention to another point, namely that Egypt will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is due for renewal this year, unless Israel does. Does this mean that this is a sign of cool relations between Egypt and Israel? Doesn't Egypt have the right to safeguard its own security, the security of the other Arab countries, and indeed the security of the whole region? Why doesn't Israel sign this international treaty and commit itself to eliminating nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East as long as it harbors no hostile intentions against its neighbors?

If it is a question of lack of trust in Arab intentions, don't the Arab countries also have the right to distrust Israeli intentions?

The obstacles that Israel is placing in the way of expanding the Palestinian self-rule authority and holding Palestinian elections are already well-known. The settlement policy, which Israel has not yet definitively disavowed, is the most serious circumstance surrounding the peace process. The plan—later abandoned—to expand a settlement near Bethlehem could have had repercussions.

Solving the settlement problem is a basic condition for peace between the Palestinians and Israel because the settlements are a feature and a consequence of Israeli aggression. How can it be logical to continue building settlements while peace negotiations are underway?

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It is justifiably worrisome that Israel is clinging to positions and acts that contravene the Declaration of Principles it signed with the Palestinians and the spirit of the peace process itself.

Paper Criticizes Fundraising for 'Terrorist Acts'

NC0501220195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper says that in his speech at the Arab interior ministers's conference in Tunis, [Egyptian] Minister of Interior Major General Hasan al-Alfi defined one of the most dangerous resources used in financing terrorist operations, not only in Egypt but also in other countries.

In its editorial on Friday, the paper adds that these resources are generated through suspect organizations that use filthy means to collect contributions and alms money from Egyptian nationals working in fraternal Arab countries, the United States, and some Western countries. These organizations, the paper notes, use the funds to commit the most heinous acts forbidden by Islam—murdering men, women, and children; intimidating peaceful citizens; and damaging stability in their countries.

The paper stresses that governments anywhere can control the collection of contributions from Islamic nations under the facade of serving the poor. These governments can also introduce controls and restrictions to ensure that these contributions are not eventually used to fund mean terrorist crimes that God and everyone abhors, the paper concludes.

Labor Party Official's Detention Extended 15 Days

NC0501202195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, today decided to continue the detention of journalist 'Adil Husayn, secretary general of the Labor Party, for another 15 days pending the outcome of the prosecution's investigations.

The prosecution has conducted investigations on him on charges of carrying leaflets on his way home from abroad in October.

Husayn was also charged with publishing reports in AL-SHA'B newspaper, which the Defense Ministry affirmed were untrue. In his reports, Husayn said a foreign country has a military base in Egypt.

Sudan

Joint Integration Committee With Libya Meets

EA2912181494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of experts of the Libyan- Sudanese ministerial committee on integration was held today at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers. In this current third round of meetings, the Sudanese side is being led by the minister at the presidency for the Council of Ministers, Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, while the Libyan-Arab side is being led by the secretary of Arab unity, Jum'ah al-Fazzani. The experts are meeting to prepare for the meetings of the ministerial committee, due to commence on 1 January at the Friendship Hall.

Mr. Jum'ah al-Fazzani addressed the participants, expressing satisfaction over the convening of the meetings of the ministerial committee on integration. He congratulated the Sudanese people on the anniversary of their glorious independence. He then stressed the solidarity of the Sudanese and Libyan people in working toward unity and toward removing economic and political constraints, so as to weaken the embargo imposed by the forces of the imperialist hegemony.

In reply, the minister at the presidency for the Council of Ministers, Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, thanked the leadership and people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for joining the Sudanese people on the occasion of the anniversary of their independence. He stressed that the wishes of the people could not be resisted.

After a review of the agenda, a technical committee of experts from both the ministerial committee for approval.

Integration Talks Conclude

EA0401210095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese-Libyan higher ministerial committee on integration today ended its meeting at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, the Libyan prime minister, and the chairman of the ministerial committee's third session. During the past few days, participants discussed the results of the meetings of the ministerial committees and reviewed reports covering political, economic, commercial, and legal issues.

The closing session was addressed by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, who praised the great efforts made by the participants in tackling the agenda of the current round of meetings. He expressed satisfaction with the conclusions reached at the talks by the two sides, which were celebrated by the commissioning of the Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi Road. He said the road symbolized the deep integrationist relations between the two countries, and would help realize the economic and social goals stipulated in the declaration of integration.

Major General al-Zubayr pointed out that the unjust embargo imposed by arrogant powers on fraternal Libya

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was one of the objective reasons that militated against the progress both sides aspired for, as was stated in their past resolutions.

The vice president reiterated that the government and the people of Sudan appreciated the attendance of the noble Libyan delegation at the country's independence anniversary festivities.

He expressed the hope that joint cooperation between the two countries would be enhanced so as to realize comprehensive integration based on the two peoples genuine interests.

In reply, Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, the Libyan secretary for the general people's committee, stated that during his visit to the country he witnessed the genuine feelings of the Sudanese people toward the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and, in general, toward the national cause.

He said: We have reached a number of decisions during the current round of meetings of the ministerial committee on integration, where bilateral trade and prices were also discussed. It was also agreed to embark immediately on the task of completing the road linking the two countries, via (Kufra) and Fashir. Other subjects, such as legislation and the expansion of the basic infrastructure program in both regions, were also discussed.

Support for Eritrean Islamic Jihad Denied

JN0101210395 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 26 Dec 94-1 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi Shahin in Jeddah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has denied that his country has extended support to the Eritrean Islamic Jihad, which is launching attacks on the government of Asmara. In a statement to AL-WASAT during a stopover in Jeddah en route to Khartoum from Casablanca to perform the minor pilgrimage, he said members of the movement belong to the supporters of the Muhammadan Sunna group which opposes the Sudanese Government. This, he said, refutes any allegations that we support them, adding that the Eritrean government should solve its internal problems by itself without involving Sudan's name in them. He also denied that clashes took place between the Sudanese and Eritrean forces on the joint border before they severed their relations. He said that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is mediating between Khartoum and Asmara.

Regarding the al-Ummah Party's call for self-determination in southern Sudan, he said such a move would be a big crime because it would disrupt Sudan and that such a call was never expected from al-Ummah, which we believed would naturally stand by our side rather than the side of John Garang.

Regarding the security situation in Sudan, Abu-Salih said: Compared to the confusion sweeping U.S. cities and many world countries, Sudan is safe and secure. Individual incidents occurring from time to time do not mean the existence of extremism and sabotage. The incident which took place in the Sunna supporters' mosque was carried out by a non-Sudanese. The other incident is still in court.

On Sudan's attempts to strengthen its relations with Asian countries to compensate for its deteriorating relations with the United States and the West, the Sudanese minister said: The center of influence is now in Asian countries. We are pleased to maintain developed relations with Asian countries such as China, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and others. This indicates our openness and shrewdness in dealing with those we believe are honest to the joint interests. This makes dealing with them an easy job. He noted that his country has not rejected the West but that the West is maintaining a hostile position on Sudan. He added: We always call for cooperating with it. But this does not mean we should sit back with folded arms and wait for the West.

Yemeni President Arrives for Talks on Eritrea

EA0201141795 Nairobi KNA in English 1310 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, Sudan, 2 Jan (KNA/PANA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Port Sudan on Sunday [1 January] for Sudan's Independence Day celebrations, promising to help heal the diplomatic rift between this country and neighbouring Eritrea the official Sudan News Agency, SUNA, reported. It quoted Salih as saying he was very keen to act "in a manner that boosts the stability and peace of the horn of Africa and the Red Sea". [passage omitted]

Salih said he would also be conferring with Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir on Arab, Islamic, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

SUNA said that Salih had acknowledged Sudan's political and material support for his government during its war with breakaway south Yemen led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Sudan sent relief supplies and doctors to the north during the war. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Speaker Attacks Arabs States Supporting Iraq

LD0501144695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1322 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Fujayrah, 5 Jan—Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-Aziz Al-Sa'dun has stressed that it is not possible to talk about Arab reconciliation unless Iraq complies with the UN Security Council resolutions connected with Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, primarily the one demanding the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

At a meeting organized yesterday by the Al-Fujayrah Cultural Association, Al-Sa'dun stressed the need for a clear condemnation of the other parties which supported, and continue to support the Iraqi regime in light of its aggression against Kuwait. He said the Kuwaiti Government will not take a single step toward reconciliation unless it sees a clear change in the stances of those parties. [passage omitted]

Al-Sa'dun also talked about recent agreements signed with Israel by some countries of the region. He underlined the need to confront Israeli infiltration and its attempts to penetrate the Arab countries. In this respect he called for support for the Syrian stance toward Israel, its demands for the implementation of the international legitimacy, and for its adherence to the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Explaining why the State of Kuwait had not signed the Gulf Cooperation Council security agreement, Al-Sa'dun pointed out that Kuwait refused to sign the agreement because it contradicts the Kuwaiti Constitution. He also expressed reservations about the agreement unless some of its clauses are changed. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Ali Nasir Muhammad on National Unity, Returning

MM0501141095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 95 p 2

[Interview with former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Husayn] Some Yemeni politicians and military officials believe that the current unity will not last, and that Aden will achieve its independence in 10 years just as happened between Eritrea and Ethiopia. What is your opinion?

[Muhammad] It is a great mistake to talk about secession, especially as most of the parties that have been established since the fifties are working to achieve unity. In fact I warned about that matter, namely that any backtracking on unity would mean the destruction of the parties present on the Yemeni scene. The Socialist Party could have avoided all the disputes, especially as we have a long history with it: It is an experienced party that played a major role in liberating the south, defending the revolution, and preparing for the establishment of Yemeni unity. So this role proves the importance of working to keep the Socialist party on the scene. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Why all this interest in the unity, when there are difficulties and problems obstructing it?

[Muhammad] Because Yemen is one entity, north and south. My conviction is that unity is a protection for both national security and pan-Arab security, especially the security of neighboring states. In the sense that the alternative (secession) would lead to partitioning the country not into two states, but numerous "statelets"—which would increase tension and fuel conflicts and wars between these statelets, hence pushing the region into the circle of violence and instability. We must take account of the fact that all the Yemeni people are armed, which is why my position has always been to keep Yemen united and to maintain cordial relations with the neighbors, specifically Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to all the other states in the region. This is because—as I have stressed on many occasions—Yemen's stability leads to calm conditions in neighboring states, and this is the responsibility of the political leadership in Yemen and the region's states. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Do you believe there are new foundations for achieving reconciliation in the framework of the general amnesty?

[Muhammad] The foundations for reconciliation are clear. It requires the rebuilding of trust among all the parties. As I understand it, there are numerous ideas and proposals aimed at achieving national solidarity in the country. I believe that the Yemenis' return to their homeland is a step in the right direction. [passage omitted]

(Abu-Husayn] Are you prepared to return to Yemen to participate in the rebuilding process? And where will you be based: Aden or Sanaa?

[Muhammad] I am Yemeni, and I have never said I am from Aden or Sanaa. Why? Because I have made great sacrifices for the sake of Yemeni unity. I left Aden and Sanaa for nothing except unity. Everyone recalls that after the unity agreement, it was important for me to leave the country, because it was impossible for it to be achieved while I was there. [passage omitted]

As for the question of my return to Yemen, it could take place at any time, and there are no reservations about my return from the political leadership, especially brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. We are now seeking with the leadership to complete some arrangements concerning [my] return. [passage omitted]

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Saddam Gives 74th Army Anniversary Address

JN0601092095 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 Jan 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great people, mujahidin and strugglers of our glorious nation, sons of our valiant Armed Forces, and free men wherever you are under the banner of freedom, sincere nationalism, and noble humanitarian values:

On 6 January every year, when the Iraqi people celebrate this occasion, some of you may wonder why the Iraqis celebrate this day, and why the sons of our glorious nation sympathize and interact with us on this day? Some may differ in their replies to this question and no conclusive answer may be found, although all Iraqis are enthusiastic about this day and prepare to celebrate it as a great and unique day.

The answer is that we in Iraq celebrate this auspicious day and that all patriotic, nationalist, and faithful believers interact with us because this day represents our national independence day and because the nucleus of this great army was formed on 6 January 1921. From the practical point of view and irrespective of the premeditated designs toward this army, the formation of this army meant the beginning of the establishment of the sound means the sincere political leadership would use to achieve Iraq's independence through its endeavors to expel the British colonialists in the May 1941 Revolution. The British had colonized Iraq by direct military occupation from the moment they occupied Baghdad in 1917 until the 1920 Revolution. Then came the period that was called the British Mandate and indirect colonialism until the first July Revolution in 1958, followed by the 1963 Ramadan Revolution, and then the glorious July 1968 Revolution, after which the army was built up in a comprehensive and national manner in terms of its size, equipment, and ideology.

This valiant, great Army stood in the face of those who sought to occupy Iraq and deprive it of its independence, freedom, and will to choose, and it stands now as an expression of independence and the honorable national and pan-Arab course.

Yes, by celebrating the anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army we celebrate the birth of the first nucleus for our political, principled will to act in a national and pan-Arab direction by strengthening Iraq's independence by expelling the English from Iraq, defending the country against those who had designs on it in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah and the immortal Mother of Battles, and defending the Arab nation and its principles, freedom, independence, and glory in all arenas that were open—in Palestine, in Egypt, in Syria, in Jordan, and in others.

When the people celebrate 6 January every year, they not only celebrate the Army Day, they celebrate the day of national resources that provided the basis for Iraq's free will and kept Iraq glorious, healthy, and impregnable to the covetous and treacherous ones.

The valiant Armed Forces have lived up to the expectations of the nation and people in all circumstances and cases. They remained the shield of the dear homeland and the faithful people, defending the great sacred principles and preparing themselves to face any adversity without laziness or hesitation.

This is day of our great army, the army of the immortal Mother of Battles and the glorious al-Qadisiyah, the army of the Free Officers' Uprising in 1941, the army of the first July Revolution of 1958, the army of the Ramadan Revolution of 1963, and the army of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution of 1968.

Brothers, this is the people's opportunity to celebrate their army and it is the army's celebration of being a vital part of its people.

When Iraq's willpower became the embodiment of the nation and of the values and hopes of many good people in the world, Iraq was targeted through its army first. This is because the invaders—let them be accursed—realized that there was no room for them to undermine Iraq's independence and its new resurgence unless they could undermine the nationalism of its people and Armed Forces.

You can clearly sense this on the side of the infamous ones who opposed the Iraqis in the eternal Mother of Battles as compared to the radiant message that prevailed on our front. From this premise, you can see that they doubted the capabilities of the army and the great support it receives from the patient and militant Iraqi people and, thus, their evil intentions and slogans and poisonous arrows backfired on them. What remained of their insight, which might have enabled them to learn the truth about the struggling people of Iraq and their faithful brave army, was by then blinded by their own slogans, leaving them with double vision and color blindness.

O strugglers in our brave Armed Forces, in the second glorious al-Qadisiyah and in the immortal Mother of Battles you saw the depth of your people's support, just like a spring that never stops flowing, supplying what you need in terms of men, money, and fighting equipment. Your great struggling party was the prominent supplier and was the great renewer of the army's potential. The men and women who worked in the military industrial field led the state's institutions and workers in service of the battles. You also noticed how the men and women and even the children spontaneously acted to provide you with everything you asked for. This strengthened the front, which encompasses every Iraqi house, the ink of every honorable pen, every plant, factory, school, and university in Iraq, and all the inventors in great Iraq, along with the men of engineering, art, science, and

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technology, the internal security men, all the agencies monitoring the foreign enemy, and every treasury in the country, which mirrored the armed forces willpower and actions. The Iraqi leadership, after seeking guidance from God almighty, was also inspired by this in mapping the present and a brilliant and safe future for the people and for waging the most ferocious and harsh battle.

O outstanding fighters; O men within the ranks of the Armed Forces: These are your people, whom you have tried in ordeals. Your people are just like you, O mujahid, patient, and free mujahidin, who have been concerned to remain loyal to the pledge, honest in fighting, and eager to be faithful to the promise in all duels, including the cruelest chapter, the chapter of treachery, treason, and shame. This is how you, O great people, O men within the heroic Armed Forces, and O glorious Iraqi women, have been. This is how you have always been. Forge ahead to do all that will promote determination and standing, safeguard the homeland, and uphold patriotism and faith in the chests of honest and faithful people.

God is great.

O great people; O sons of our glorious Arab nation; O free men of the world: This is why we celebrate on 6 January every year, which we mark as a day of festivity for our lofty and mujahid army. On this occasion we must say that colonialists and reckless and covetous parties that seek to dominate peoples, including those who seek to control our glorious nation, previously acted upon this belief, particularly when our [Arab] nation and its states lacked a national or pan-Arab army. They believed that once they conquered the armies of these states on their territory, they would subdue the people's will and subjugate states and use them as arenas for their evil ambitions.

As a matter of fact, the Western colonialists managed to realize their ambitions during the period extending from World War I to World War II on our nation's territory. They have continued to control well-known Arab states even in the aftermath of World War II. Nonetheless, if this belief realized its purposes, or some of these purposes in the past, the developments seen in the lives of world peoples, including our Arab peoples, now render this belief inconceivable, even if they undermine any army—regardless of the losses this army might sustain, if the people concerned show a determination to fight.

The big powers may possess weapons of mass destruction and long- range conventional weapons that can hit specific targets within the homeland or hit precise targets in the armies' military machines. But, when the people demonstrate a determination to fight—even if their food supplies are no more than the rations required by simple combatants and their arms are only the weapons used by infantry men—when there is a need to do so, the weapons of superiority possessed by those who are technologically superior are neutralized or weakened and their other military equipment is paralyzed. For combat becomes a man-to-man battle. Battles are not settled by remote firing devices. The need then arises for infantry men. For, it is infantry men, walking on foot on territory other than their own, that take risks.

The old colonialists and their evil henchmen—let the evil and the treacherous be doomed—in the region tried to deprive the great militant Iraqi people of their national gains, including their basic gain of independence, which enabled the sincere and free men of Iraq to run its affairs. However, the colonialists failed to subdue Iraq's will in the eternal Mother of Battles because Iraq's defense starts with the brave Iraqi soldier in our great army who stands in the forward positions and throughout Iraq. The concept of technological superiority and control of the world that started to tempt the big coveters in the wake of the weakening of the Soviet Union and what took place in it and the world will fail.

The big powers should not be deluded into believing they can replace neocolonialist methods that resort to technological and economic superiority for the attainment of their objectives by going back to direct colonialism in this or that country, and particularly in Third World countries.

Third World countries should realize this and demonstrate farsightedness and wisdom, and understand the factors of weakness of the colonialist countries and the fact that they have become, for known reasons, unable to sustain serious losses in the votes of their citizens, not to mention the financial losses and the cost of the operations of their armies and war machines and the losses in life. Leaders and representatives of Third World countries should realize that the basic condition for carrying out resistance is simply to be an active and vital part of their people and not a subservient agent of the foreigner. Only then will the oppressor and covetous big powers and their agents be forced to treat with respect those who deserve it and whose course is one of struggle and jihad. Only then can dialogue replace threats and the use of force, cooperation will replace intimidation and destructive temptations, an equal relationship will be established among countries, and the nations will then build, in words and deeds, a mutually agreed upon relationship through collective will and free conviction.

With this alone, peace can be established in the world and on the regional level, and with this alone everyone can enjoy happiness. Then, people will only pray to God, the one and only, the mighty and the all powerful; and then, there will be no cries of hunger in the midst of those who build a phony and deviant happiness at the expense of the happiness of other peoples and the dignity of other countries and peoples.

O virtuous martyrs of our glorious nation: You and your principles are the base for the nation's dignity, the title of its glory and loftiness, and the brightest chapter in its immortal chronicle. On your position and principles, your generation and the future generations will be brought up. Yes, you, the martyrs of the nation in Palestine—and long live Palestine, Arab and free; and in the immortal Mother of Battles—long live the principles of the Mother of Battles and the determination displayed

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by the mujahidin then to make it immortal in the values of our nation, along with the stand of honor it represents, and its rejection of tyranny and everything phony, agent, and subservient; and in al- Qadisiyah—which confirmed the earnest choice and expresses the genuine faith in the national and pan-Arab zeal; and in Syria, in Egypt, in Sinai, in the Golan Heights, in Jordan, and in Algeria, as well as all of our nation's martyrs wherever their pure remains speak of their position and role to improve the lot of the nation and defend its values and the glory and honor of its people everywhere and every time.

Greetings to every struggler and mujahid. Greetings to every banner raised in the face of injustice, tyranny, filthiness, vice, shame, capitulation, cowardliness, submissiveness, subservience, and unfairness for the sake of a glorious nation united in mind, resources, will, aspirations, and honorable capable actions and for the sake of a life free of hunger, humiliation, defeat, and disgrace.

Greetings to all Arab armies and their honorable men who aspire for an unblemished political will, which is faithful, trustworthy, just, and Arab, and not subservient or tarnished, to lead them with honor and competence in order to give meaning to the banner of Arab soldiery—a meaning that is inseparable from the great meanings of soldiery in the history of our glorious nation—and in order to give the nation's armies a clear role to play in its real, and not superficial, independence.

Greetings to all of them. Mercy be on the martyrs of the Arab nation who are close to God, the merciful, the compassionate. Glory to them.

Greetings once again to the army of the immortal Mother of Battles, the army of glorious al-Qadisiyah.

Greetings to the citizen of our mujahid, unrelenting nation.

Greetings to the citizens of the nation of prophets and messengers, the cradle of every ray of light and faith, the source of every great renaissance, the model for every virtue on the path of ascension, the lofty honorable banner, and the yardstick for measuring determination, patience, and perseverance against injustice and those who advocate it.

Greetings to all of you, sons of Arabism and faith from the east of the greater Arab homeland to the west. From the Atlantic Ocean and Morocco to the edges of the Mediterranean. From Mauritania to the shores of the Arabian Gulf. From holy Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem and from joyful Yemen to Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, green Tunis, and Algeria of the 1 million martyrs, and to every heart and mind that believes in Arabism and its spiritual and cultural message in Somalia, Djibouti, and Eritrea, and to faithful Arabs everywhere in the world.

Greetings of love, struggle, jihad, and commitment to all of you, sons of our glorious nation.

Greetings to the great and mujahid people of Iraq. Long live Iraq and its courageous army as an outstanding symbol for values and an example to be emulated.

Long live Palestine, free and Arab.

God is great. God is great. The peace and mercy of God be on the virtuous martyrs and the sons of our nation and people.

God is great. Peace be on those who believe in the just, equitable peace. Damned be the lowly.

Saddam Addresses Armed Forces Command

JN0501182095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 5 Jan 95

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to the members of the General Command of the Armed Forces on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] On this occasion I wish you and the army and people happiness and success. An organization, military and otherwise, is judged according to whether it can prove it is a part of the people. I am not talking about the Armed Forces in the traditional sense of the term or in the sense of land forces only. Traditionally, the army and Armed Forces have always been an integral part of the people. This is even more so now that the army has grown into an institution with a clear ideology that transcends the classical concept of nationalism. It is very important that the people advance and the country grows stronger and the nation's assets develop so as to better cope with dangers. It is the military's duty to defend the nation when it is subjected to danger.

Your army, thanks be to God, has grown both materially and morally, thus achieving a balance between the physical and the spiritual.

I send my greetings to the men of al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles and the fighting men in Palestine and Syria and Egypt, as well as men of missions wherever they are needed by their Arab nation to defend its sovereignty, high values, and dignity, and the homeland. They are the men who were entrusted with defending the Arab nation and waging struggle against the Zionist enemy in the Mother of Battles. Young Jordanians had their shirts emblazoned with the figure 39 followed by the question mark, meaning that they wonder when the 40th rocket will be fired.

We are not saying that to boast, because we consider whatever we do for our Arab nation as a duty. Indeed, whatever we do for our Arab nation, we feel falls short of what we would have liked to do. Sometimes, we think that we have not done enough and so summon our latent forces to do even better.

Still, I believe that the Arab nation has right to ask: Thirty-nine missiles? Who will fire the 40th?

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This is your history and the history of Iraq since time immemorial. Even before the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assumed power in this part of the Arab homeland, the Iraqis had always cherished lofty values. However, the Iraqis' capabilities had not always been appropriately reflected by political leadership. Likewise, we know that the stand of the people in Syria, Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf, and elsewhere in the Arab homeland on dealing with Iraq and other major, crucial pan-Arab is not the same as that of all Arab leaders. Such stands are not in line with the people's spirits, wishes, aspirations, and even capabilities. Does the political leadership in all Arab countries reflect the aspirations, hopes, and even the latent capabilities of the people in those countries?

I believe that judging according to the map of stands in the Arab homeland, the answer to those questions is clear. When a genuine nation possesses a genuine political will, it means that it has the requirements for true expression of its will and capabilities. The Iraqi Army has thus grown into an ever valiant organization. When a political will genuinely reflecting the people's supreme values came into existence, the army was then in a position reflecting the capabilities of the entire people on the field. Therefore, you see that daily plots are being concocted against the people, the army, and the political leadership. The series of those plots is known, and so is the continued desire to smash Iraq's ability to stand on its feet. The most evident manifestation of the desire to oppose the people's course and will and the Arab nation's will is what had happened during the second al-Qadisiyah battle [1980-88 war with Iran] and the immortal Mother of Battles. In the first instance, they used the maximum of regional capabilities to destroy your will, but to no avail. Therefore, they found themselves in need to use the full range of international capabilities. Prompted by evil motives and intentions, they came from all over the world. Then, the confrontation took place. We called it the Mother of Battles. They called it other names, all bringing them disgrace in history. It was called the Mother of Battles even before its major chapters began to appear. It was called the Mother of Battles since the beginning of its early chapters. This is because we had a clear view of the battle in terms of its effects, historic meaning, and material repercussions, as well as of the enemy purposes. We knew that we needed to bring the resolve and capabilities of our men up to the level of the name—the Mother of Battles.

The showdown that preceded the Mother of Battles was with a tough opponent. We have never made a habit of censuring enemies. It is our habit to characterize people as they truly are, even if they are enemies. Hence, our remark that it was a tough opponent. During this showdown, the fighting lasted eight years. But when we called the duel the "Mother of Battles", we had in mind the monumental dangers we had to face, and recalled what we as Iraqis, who have deep-seated patriotic national sentiments, as well as sweeping pan-Arab feelings, have to do to measure up to this nomenclature.

Given the fact that the Mother of Battles was preceded by an eight-year battle, it goes without saying that the perseverance required to cope with it was bound to be exceptional. God be praised, for the great, mujahid, and patient Iraqi people, and their mujahid, honest, combative, and valiant army have demonstrated that they are worthy of the trust placed in them by the nation. Moreover, our valiant army has set an example to be emulated by other armies. Likewise, the Iraqi people have set an example for other peoples in terms of patience, vitality, and ability to cope with hardship, and unleash all their resources to address different circumstances and their requirements.

I hail the men who fought the Mother of Battles and the al-Qadisiyah battle.

I hail the men who fought the al-Qadisiyah battle and the Mother of Battles, for the two battles are closely related.

My greetings to your patient families. Please, relay our greetings, and the greetings of the leadership to your comrades-in-arms in all classes of the Armed Forces, regardless of whether they are in active service, whether they were among those who fought in the July revolution, or whether they are in combat units. For they are all parts of the Armed Forces.

May God's peace be upon you.

'Aziz Explains Saddam Comments on Missile Attack on Israel

TA0601153995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated in an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts that Saddam Husayn's remarks yesterday about the identity of the Arab country that will fire the next missile at Israel do not represent any change in Iraq's policy. Saddam was merely mentioning and documenting historic facts, 'Aziz told our correspondent. He refused to reply to a question on whether he wants or intends to meet an Israeli personality.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 6 January publishes on page 1 the following report: "Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last night called on Arab countries to begin missile attacks on Israel, similar to Iraq's attacks during the Gulf War.

["Speaking during a reception for the heads of the Iraqi military, Saddam reportedly said, 'The Arab countries should be asking themselves, "Who will fire the 40th missile against Israel?" '

["Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles on Israel during the war.

["Saddam's statements were broadcast on Iraqi Radio and reported by Israel Radio last night."]

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'Unofficial Translation' of Law on PLO Activity

TA0501130695 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 4 Jan 95

["Law Implementing Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area (Restriction on Activity) 1994 (Unofficial Translation)"—communicated by the Government Press Office]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

1. Purpose of the Law:

The purpose of this law is to ensure compliance with the undertaking of the Palestine Liberation Organization (Hereinafter "the PLO") concerning the restriction on the activity of the Palestinian Authority to the areas of Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the agreement and to prevent activity of a political or governmental nature or other similar activity within the area of the State of Israel which does not accord with respect for the sovereignty of the State of Israel by the Palestinian Authority or the PLO, without the agreement of the State of Israel.

2. Definitions:

"Meeting"—includes a march, assembly or congress;

"The Agreement"—the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed at Cairo between the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 4 May 1994;

"The Palestinian Authority" and "The Areas of Gaza and Jericho"—as defined in the emergency regulations (Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip—Jurisdiction over offenses and legal assistance), 1967;

"Representative Mission"—includes any institution, office or branch.

3. Restriction on the Palestinian Authority:

A. The Palestinian Authority shall not open or operate a representative mission, and shall not hold a meeting, in the area of the State of Israel unless written permission for this has been given by the State of Israel or by someone authorized by it to do so;

B. The Minister of Police may, by means of an order, prohibit the opening or operation of a representative mission of the Palestinian Authority, order its closure, or prevent the holding of a meeting, if permission has not been obtained in accordance with sub-paragraph (A).

C. Orders referred to in sub-paragraph (B) shall be served, insofar as possible, on the owner of the premises, or the occupier, or the organizers, or whoever it seems to the Minister of Police is responsible for the activity which is the subject of the order; where it is not possible to serve the order as aforesaid, the Minister of Police shall give instructions for its publication in a manner which he shall establish; a notice concerning the giving of the order shall be published in the official gazette.

4. Restriction on the Activity of the PLO:

A. The Government may, by means of an order, prohibit the opening or the operation of a representative mission of the PLO, order its closure, or prevent the holding of a meeting on behalf of the PLO or under its auspices, within the area of the State of Israel.

B. The provisions of paragraph 3(C) above shall apply, with the necessary changes, to an order referred to in sub-paragraph (A) above.

5. Duration of Order: The duration of a closure order issued pursuant to paragraphs 3 or 4 shall not exceed 6 months and may be extended from time to time for an additional period which shall not exceed 6 months at any one time.

6. Ancillary Authorities:

For the purpose of executing orders pursuant to paragraphs 3 or 4, the Israel Police shall have all the authorities given to it by any law, including the authority to enter into any place, to remove from there any person, to close the place, to disperse any meeting, and to take any action necessary to ensure the execution of the order and to use reasonable force for this purpose.

For the purpose of this paragraph, "The Palestinian Authority" includes any person acting on its behalf or under its auspices or using its name.

7. Restriction on Licensing:

Where an order has been issued pursuant to paragraph 3 or 4, prohibiting the opening of or operation of a representative mission, the license required for such activity shall not be granted under any law.

8. Validity and Entry into Force:

A. This law shall enter into force on 1 January 1995.

B. This law shall continue in force for the period of the continuance in force of the emergency regulations (Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip—Jurisdiction over offenses and legal assistance), 1967, as extended by the law implementing the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area (Judicial powers and miscellaneous provisions) (Legislative amendments), 1994.

Passed by the Knesset, 26 December 1994.

PLO Urged To Deal With 'Extremists' in Police Force

NC0501112595 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Jan 5 (AFP)—Israel on Thursday [5 January] urged the PLO to deal with "extremists" in its police force after saying a joint inquiry concluded that the three Palestinian policemen killed Monday had shot first at Israeli troops.

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But the Palestinian police chief, General Nasr Yusuf, denied the Israeli report telling AFP that the "inquiry is continuing and we have not reached any conclusions."

State radio said a joint Palestinian-Israeli commission of inquiry concluded Thursday that Palestinian policemen had shot first at Israeli soldiers before three of them were killed inside the autonomous Gaza Strip on Monday.

"There is no doubt that the shots came from a position held by Palestinian police and that the soldiers had to fire back to defend themselves according to their orders," Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

"There is no doubt that some among the Palestinian police belong to extremist groups. We have asked the Palestinian Authority to take tangible steps to deal with the problem," he added.

Several Palestinian groups are opposed to the peace process, including the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad.

Shahal, who took part in a meeting Tuesday of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee in Cairo, said "cooperation between Palestinian policemen and the Israelis is generally taking place in a satisfactory way."

"In Cairo the Palestinians spoke of an atmosphere of crisis but not of failure. In fact they are unable to meet the expectations of people who want an improved economic situation overnight," he said.

"For our part we are disappointed that the Palestinian leadership is not doing enough to prevent attacks," he said.

"But the two sides agree that the only alternative to the peace negotiations is HAMAS," Shahal said.

IDF Rejects Palestinian Version of Erez Clash

TA0501195695 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 5 Jan 95

[Communication released by the IDF spokesman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Spokesman wishes to state categorically, following a thorough investigation of the incident on (Monday) 2.1.94, near the Erez Checkpoint, that the Palestinian policemen opened direct fire at the IDF soldiers, putting their lives in danger, and in response the IDF soldiers fired at the source of the shooting. The IDF Spokesman wishes to emphasize that the version of events disseminated by Palestinian sources is not correct.

Special Units Said To Eliminate 'Terrorist Squads'

TA0401123695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Jan 95 p 12

[Report by ITIM correspondent in the south Yitzhaq Levinson]

[FBIS Translated Text] Special units locate and wipe out terrorist squads before they set out on attacks in Israel, Health Minister Efrayim Sne disclosed yesterday in an address to high school students in Beersheba.

"We detect terrorist squads, and special units wipe them out before they manage to carry out attacks. We are dealing with a ruthless and sophisticated enemy. In Lebanon it takes the form of Hizballah, while in the territories it operates as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. We must outwit them and, indeed, we recently took off our kid gloves," he said.

Sne added: "Our challenge this year is to eradicate particularly dangerous squads which perpetrate serious attacks, such as those on Dizengoff Street and in Hadera and 'Afula."

According to him, the most important security challenge Israel faces this year is "to defeat this unprecedented terror, the likes of which we are experiencing only in the latest stages of our presence in Lebanon. This is a very ruthless terror on the part of radical Islam. These are people whose ideology has it that a Zionist state has no place in the Middle East. They feel desperate because of our success in merging with the region, and because they are desperate, they carry out suicide attacks in order to sabotage the peace process."

Two Wounded in Attack on Israeli Car Near Ramallah

TA0601102295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shots were fired a short while ago at an Israeli vehicle near the Halamish junction, northwest of Ramallah. According to initial reports two people were injured. One of the wounded passengers is in serious condition while the second person sustained moderate injuries. They are currently receiving medical treatment at the site of the attack.

Woman Dies of Wounds

TA0601112595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A woman was killed when shots were fired at an Israeli car at the Halamish junction near Ramallah. Another passenger sustained moderate injuries. Our correspondents Dani Zaqen and Gil Litman report that the terrorists overtook the Israeli vehicle in their car and fired several shots. The wounded man was taken to Jerusalem's Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

A WTN film crew was attacked at the site of the attack at Halamish junction by Jewish settlers. The cameraman told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Pinhas Wallerstein, the head of the Mate Binyamin local council, attacked him and was later joined by another

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settler, a medic by profession. A brawl broke out and the settlers smashed the cameraman's equipment.

Foreign Ministry Holds Meetings on Jerusalem Future

TA0501093195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry top echelon has started a series of meetings on Jerusalem's future with the participation of Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Our political correspondent reports that in yesterday's meeting the participants discussed a bill to restrict PLO activity in the city, relations with the churches, and festivities to mark the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem's foundation. Upcoming meetings will deal with foreign involvement in the capital, the transfer of foreign representations, Russia's demands in Jerusalem, and Jerusalem's status in a permanent settlement. Our correspondent notes that Beilin is also a member of the committee on Jerusalem affairs headed by Minister Moshe Shahal.

Foreign Ministry To Expedite Projects in Gaza Strip

TA0501134695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 95 p A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the multilateral peace talks to be held in 1995, Israel will grant top priority to directing projects and budgets toward the Gaza Strip in order to enable the Palestinians to rapidly reap the fruits of the peace process.

In a follow-up discussion on the multilateral talks, held this week at Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's bureau, it was agreed that Israel will act to expedite projects in the field of water and the environment.

Foreign Ministry sources said: "We want the Palestinians to witness the results and realize that they stem from the peace process." According to the plan, Luxembourg will finance the construction of an exhibition farm in Gaza as a showcase for agricultural crops grown in saline water. The project will cost $5.5 million over three years, and the first stage will include flowers and hothouse tomatoes.

During the first week of February 1995, representatives from Luxembourg will arrive in Gaza in order to mark some land at al-Azhar University, where the exhibition farm will constitute the cornerstone for a Palestinian Faculty of Agriculture. The agricultural know-how was developed in Israel, but the Foreign Ministry has decided to play down the Israeli angle so as not to arouse opposition among the Palestinians.

At this week's discussion, it was decided that Israel will cooperate with the Palestinian Authority, one of the donor countries, and an Arab country in implementing the projects in Gaza. Morocco will participate in the hothouse farm and, during the second stage, Austria and Tunisia will finance the growing of agricultural crops in open fields.

Peres: Interim Period Demanded on Golan Withdrawal

TA0501114595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is demanding a four-year interim period between implementation of the first and second phases of a withdrawal from Golan Heights territory, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

A senior government official later confirmed that this was the government's "opening position" in peace talks with Syria.

"As far as the timetable is concerned, we keep drawing Syrian attention to the timetable with the Egyptians, in which at least four years went by between the first and second stages, while relations were normalized after the first stage," said Peres.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 January reports: "In the recent Washington meeting between Israel's former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and Syrian Chief of Staff al-Shihabi, Syria once again brought up demands it had already given up. Political circles told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that Damascus demanded full reciprocity on the scope of demilitarization between the two states. The circles said the meeting was very important because there had been a setback on matters of substance between Israel and Syria."]

The foreign minister was replying to six motions to the agenda on last week's Alexandria summit meeting attended by the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Peres said he was "not enthusiastic" about the summit, and that he found the resolutions regarding Israeli-Syrian negotiations unacceptable. During a visit to Cairo on Tuesday to discuss the peace process with Palestinian leaders, Peres also met with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss the summit.

"I told my Egyptian colleagues: 'It's okay if you want to fulfill a mediating role between us and the Syrians,'" said Peres, " 'but if that's the case, give your support to peace, not to one of the sides involved in the talks.' I told them that their support for the Syrian position, even if it is only verbal, causes the Syrians to harden their position."

Peres said he also discussed reported Arab fears that Israel wanted to dominate the Middle East economically. "I told them that we are not giving up control of Arab territory in order to win control of the Arab economy.... 'All the world is running after us. If you don't want our

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help, that's fine. We are not pressing you and we are not asking anything of you. Just say so and we will leave. You don't want to benefit from Israeli contacts, Israel skill, that's fine with us. We are not putting pressure on you and we are not asking anything of you.' The answer we received (from the Egyptians) on the spot was 'heaven forbid.'"

Peres said that Mubarak had promised in the talks that he would support Israel's inclusion in a Mediterranean forum organized by Egypt and France, to which Israel had not been invited.

Peres also counted as an achievement the following development: When Israel television asked Mubarak "whether Egypt supports the economic boycott of Israel, his answer was: 'No, there is no economic boycott between Egypt and Israel.'"

Peres also said that Egypt did not demand that Israel give up its nuclear arsenal immediately, even though it is demanding that Israel sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty when it comes up for renewal in April.

"Their formula is: peace plus a Middle East free of nuclear weapons," said Peres. "Our formula is—and they agree with us—when we say: a Middle East free of wars will be a Middle East in which we can discuss a Middle East free of nuclear weapons."

In his introductory remarks, Peres played down the importance of the summit. "This is not the first summit meeting in the Middle East," he said. "Most of these meetings dealt with how to declare war against us or hurt us. At least this one...spoke about the need for peace as a strategic option for the Middle East."

Knesset Rejects Likud Bill on Law in 'Etzyon Bloc

TA0401180895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset plenum has rejected Likud Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar's draft law calling for the implementation of Israeli law in the 'Etzyon Bloc. Twenty-eight opposition members, including SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK's, voted in favor of the bill; 41 coalition MK's voted against it.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that MK Ben-Elisar sharply criticized Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu for preferring the Baba Sali's [spiritual mentor of Israelis of Moroccan origin] annual festivities over an important Knesset debate. Ben-Elisar said he will demand a explanation from the Likud faction.

Palestinians Demonstrate at Talmon

TA0501172395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Demonstrations by Palestinians continued today against what they charge is Israeli expropriation of their land to expand Jewish settlements in the territories. This time, the focus was on the Talmon Bloc, northwest of Ramallah, and reporter Dick Winter was there.

[Begin recording] [Winter] Two hilltops, on one the settlement of Talmon A and on the other of Talmon B, and in the valley alongside, the Palestinian village of al-Janiyah, whose residents came to the nearby construction site to protest what they claim is Israeli expropriation of their land. A routine news story, but one which has taken on new significance in the light of this week's Efrat affair and the halt to the building of the settlement on Hatamar Hill. [passage omitted]

This is Haydar Shuqayrat, director of what is called the Land and Water Consultation Office, which provides legal services to the villagers:

[Shuqayrat] In 1992, the Israeli Civil Administration has been confiscated 1,700 dunams, and we hand in a case in the military committees objection. The case is still in the court. Now, before the court, the settlers speed the settlement activities and the human rights violations against the Palestinian people, and they started to build new settlements before the court decision.

[Winter] Shuqayrat, whose East Jerusalem office is coordinating not only legal services but demonstrations, says there are 19 more such cases of disputes over land in the West Bank and, in the weeks ahead, there will be a demonstration in each and everyone of them. [end recording]

At the entry to Efrat this afternoon, there was a violent confrontation between Meretz demonstrators, headed by Knesset Member Ran Kohen, and residents of Efrat. A police force separated the combatants. The Meretz contingent wanted to reach the building site on Hazayit Hill but were prevented by the residents.

Morag's Ownership Confirmed; Talmon Building Halted

TA0601114695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman, ITIM, Jon Immanuel, and Ranan Lurie]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee confirmed yesterday that documents presented by Gaza Palestinians claiming ownership of land near Moshav Morag in the Qatif Bloc were forged, and that the land belongs to the moshav.

Farm work planned for the land was delayed by a week, however, at the request of OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Sha'ul Mufaz, to let tension in the area dissipate. [passage omitted]

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Meanwhile, the civil administration issued an order forbidding ground work on some 1,700 dunams (425 acres) near the settlement of Talmon, in the Ramallah area.

Though the land in question was declared state land in 1989, residents of the Arab village of al-Janiyah made several appeals against the appropriation that are still under review by the civil administration's appeals committee.

Al-Janiyah residents asked for the restraining order, because Talmon residents began clearing the disputed land four days ago, cutting down trees.

The appeal is to be decided on Sunday.

PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had assured him in Cairo that no land would be confiscated for settlements and no government money would be spent on them.

But Sha'th added, the Palestinians were equally upset at seeing land confiscated for roads and private funds being used to continue building on land that was expropriated and declared state land.

Peres, in an interview yesterday, said he still feels that some settlements in the territories will have to consider living under Arab rule.

10,000 New Homes Planned in E. Jerusalem in 1995

TA0601115095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jan 95 p 7

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] If plans for 500 new homes on a barren hill between Efrat and al-Khadir made the Palestinians angry, they are certain to be furious when they hear what Rina Zamir, Jerusalem district director in the Housing Ministry, has to say.

In an interview this week, Zamir said the construction of 10,000 units of Jewish housing will begin this year in eastern Jerusalem and nearby settlements.

All the work is being sponsored by the ministry.

"There is a rush to build in the Jerusalem area," said Zamir. "But it has nothing to do with the peace agreement," she added.

"The government has put a lot of pressure on us to speed up building because of the lack of housing in the Jerusalem area, and the effect this has on housing prices and the economy," Zamir said.

Government leaders, however, have said they aim to create facts on the ground that will torpedo Palestinian claims to eastern Jerusalem and adjoining areas.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is among the most outspoken supporters of development in metropolitan Jerusalem.

His plans for the area in 1995: at least 2,500 housing starts in the new south Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa, 1,500 units in Pisgat Ze'ev in the north, and 1,000 units near Kibbutz Ramat Rahel.

Outside Jerusalem, some 2,200 new homes are planned for Ma'ale Adumim, 1,000 for Betar, 800 for Giv'at Ze'ev, and about 250 for Giv'on.

In addition, the Israel Lands Administration is behind the plan to remove the mobile homes from Giv'at Hamatos, and build at least 600 homes on the scenic south Jerusalem site.

The figures do not include the small private development plans of settlement groups such at Ateret Kohanim and El'ad in the Old City and eastern Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Clarifications Sent to U.S. on PRC Defense Ties

TA0601121095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 95 p A6

[Report by defense correspondent Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli clarifications regarding its defense ties with China were relayed to the United States several days ago.

The U.S. Administration had requested Israeli explanations of U.S. media reports alleging that Israel had unlawfully transferred U.S. expertise to China in the framework of the two countries' cooperation in developing an upgraded combat aircraft based on the Lavi technologies.

The Americans sent the relevant press clippings to Israel and asked for clarifications, which Israel proceeded to supply.

Israel denied having transferred U.S. technologies to the Chinese, but it did not comment on a part of the allegations contained in the reports, which were phrased in general terms and supplied no factual evidence. [passage omitted]

The defense establishment's data reveals that the total worth of the defense contracts signed with China over the past four years is low, totalling $10 million at most in a given year. This is contrary to some foreign reports which alleged that Israel and China had signed aviation technology supply contracts to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

In the 1980's, however, Israel signed large deals for the supply of tank upgrading kits and for the sale of air-to-air missiles of a standard model.

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Prime Minister al-Majali Tenders Resignation

JN0501192795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 95

["Text" of letter to King Husayn from Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, tendering his resignation, in Amman on 5 January—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, may God almighty preserve you.

I express to Your Majesty my sincerest loyalty and greatest appreciation for your continuous noble gestures to me throughout my life, which you have crowned by delegating me to head your government at an important stage of the history of the homeland and the nation.

Your Majesty's continuous care and guidance have been a source of inspiration for me and for my colleagues who shared with me the responsibility of making sacrifices. We did what we could and rose up with all our forces to shoulder the responsibility. Hence, we overcame obstacles and difficulties through your guidance and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan restored its rights, territories, and waters. Moreover, the wheels of work and construction moved toward a prosperous future, God willing.

Your Majesty. I made efforts to pay back part of the debt that I owe you. You showered me with Hashemite favors I would not have received had it not been for the love of the brother leader. You appreciated my work for you, and I am grateful for that.

Today, as the homeland anticipates a bright future and as it enters the post-peace stage with all its promises and challenges, I tender my resignation while feeling deep gratitude and loyalty. I call on God almighty to keep you in good health and to maintain you as the leader and symbol of the homeland and the nation. I stress to Your Majesty that I, and as you already know me, am a soldier under King Husayn's leadership all my life. I pray to God almighty to keep this homeland, under your leadership, a beacon for freedom and free people and for innovation and accomplishments. He is the hearer of prayer.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your loyal servant, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali

"Text" of King's Reply to al-Majali

JN0501192895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 95

["Text" of reply from King Husayn to resigning Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in Amman on 5 January—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

Your Excellency dear brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali: May God protect you.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

I would like to extend to you my heartfelt greetings, coupled with my feelings of true friendliness and deep appreciation. Likewise, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and friendly sentiments to your colleagues the ministers, who shared with you the trust of shouldering the responsibility, particularly since you have all done your utmost and your most sincere efforts to undertake the responsibilities vested in you to promote the lot of this dear homeland, which is holding its nation's banners, striving to maintain its dignity and pride, and confronting challenges and pressures without any of its sons bowing his head to anyone except the almighty God.

We are now entering a new phase that has its own requirements. You were asked to become the prime minister under delicate circumstances, when Jordan had to pursue the peace process, the endorsement of which had unanimously been made on the national scene. It is to be recalled that some fraternal states engaged in this process before us. The duty to restore our occupied territories and all our water rights topped the priorities assigned to your government. We have followed your sincere efforts until we, thanks to God, saw the achievement of this objective, and until the end result was endorsed by our constitutional institutions. This heralds the end of a phase in which we waged the peace battle honorably, and emerged from it with our heads held high and proud, as we have always been, and as we will always remain, God willing.

Your being selected for that stage was an expression of our confidence in your loyalty and efficiency. We have viewed you and continue to view you as a sincere brother, a brave soldier in this dear homeland, and a man who deserves the thanks and appreciation of every one of us.

Accepting the resignation of your government, having performed its responsibilities in accordance with the letter of designation, we wish you and the brother ministers good luck and success. We are confident that whatever position you may occupy, you will continue to serve dear Jordan with complete devotion, honesty, and sincerity. Your government is requested to continue its tasks until a new government is formed. The new government will be in charge of the responsibilities that we will define for the new stage, which we beseech the Almighty God to be filled with opulence for the children of our dear people.

I beseech God to preserve you an honest brother and a loyal soldier and to guide us all to do all that may win God's satisfaction. God is the hearer of prayer. Peace and blessings be upon.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn; Amman, 4 Sha'ban 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 5 January 1995

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King Designates Bin-Shakir To Form New Cabinet

JN0501184195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kassab Samawi, our correspondent at the Royal Court has learned that His Majesty King Husayn has designated al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to form the new cabinet, and that the prime minister-designate began his consultations this evening to elect his cabinet's members.

Al-Majali: Government 'Working Silently' on Chechnya

JN0501085595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 95 pp 1, 27

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-RA'Y—[passage omitted] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has asserted that the government has stood by the Muslim Chechen people in word and deed in their ongoing war with Russian forces. This, he said, is not just talk.

Replying to comments by some deputies on what is taking place in the Chechen capital, Groznyy, al-Majali said the government is working silently and that it has dispatched food supplies and medicines to the Muslim people there. He said the government has approved the formation of a tax-free fund-raising committee. In addition, the government has made diplomatic contacts on more than one level to halt the war. He said the government is doing its best in this respect. [passage omitted]

IAF Plans Solidarity Rally in Support of Chechnya

JN0501104195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Wednesday called on the citizens of al-Zarqa' to gather for a public rally Friday at IAF headquarters on the Amman-al-Zarqa' highway.

A copy of the announcement, which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES, said that the rally was designed to show solidarity with the Chechen Muslim people now facing a Russian attack on their country.

The IAF last week sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging his country to end military intervention in Chechnya and stressing that armed conflict would damage the interests of both the Russian and the Chechen peoples.

The IAF statement Wednesday said that the rally, which will be organised at 1:00 p.m., is expected to be addressed by the following Islamists: Muhammad al-Hajj, Yasir al-'Umari, Nabil al-Shishani, 'Abdallah Haddad and Dayfallah al-Khalayilah.

In its Dec. 23 message to President Yeltsin, the IAF warned that the conflict in Chechnya was bound to trigger a long war of attrition, with the two sides paying a heavy price similar to conflicts in Afghanistan and Vietnam.

Palestinian Trade Officials Meet Counterparts

JN0401191995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Boosting bilateral cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian private sectors was at the center of talks held between Haydar Murad, head of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Federation [JCCF], and 'Ali Qaddurah, head of the Palestinian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation [PCCIF] in Amman Chamber of Commerce today. The meeting was attended by a number of Jordanian heads of chambers of commerce and thr head of the Amman Chamber of Commerce. More details from our correspondent Usama al-Zu'bi:

[Begin al-Zu'bi recording] During the meeting, it was stressed that bilateral cooperation should be fostered in a way that serves the common interest of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. Haydar Murad said the distinguished relations linking the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples set an example to be emulated in the field of fraternal relations of cooperation. He said the interrelated ties between the two sides' private sectors are strong and should be enhanced in a way that fosters better cooperation. He stressed the important role of the private sector in the two countries in opening horizons of investment cooperation on a larger scale.

He expressed the readiness of the JCCF to cooperate with the PCCIF and to make efforts to further cooperation.

For his part, Qaddurah said it is time to boost the march of economic unity and cooperation among the sons of the one nation. He underlined the distinguished relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. He said Arab cohesion is represented in the unity of the Arab private sectors. He said Jerusalem is the spiritual capital of the Arab world.

At the end of the meeting, it was announced that a protocol of twining between the two federations was reached—a protocol that will serve as a beacon for cooperation and as an example of fraternal cooperation. Murad said the JCCF will prepare the twining protocol between the two sides. It was also stressed that visits should be exchanged by businessmen on both sides in order to explore fields of investment. [end recording]

Israeli Commerce Official Views Amman Trade Talks

JN0401172895 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 4 Jan (PETRA)—Dan Gillerman, head of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce

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Federation and head of the Israeli businessmen delegation currently on a visit to Jordan, held a news conference at the Philadelphia Hotel this morning.

Mr. Gillerman stressed the importance of this delegation's visit to Jordan, noting that it is the first by an Israeli economic and trade delegation to Jordan since the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October. He said the aim of the visit is to discuss bilateral commercial aspects and the means to find new horizons for joint cooperation in various fields, noting that economic aspects provide the most important indications of the results of the peace process.

He said talks dealt with 160 bilateral economic projects submitted at the Casablanca Summit and the preparations needed for the Amman economic summit to be held in April.

He reviewed potential joint ventures in various economic fields, particularly projects in tourism, medical treatment and research, Dead Sea resources, and the exploitation of the Gulf of al-'Aqabah in order to foster tourism projects there.

Government's Relations With Islamists Seen Improving

JN0501075795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has met with representatives of the Islamic movement in the Kingdom and observers said the meeting will help put back on track the Islamists' relations with the government.

Sources said the meeting, which took place Tuesday, agreed on the need for keeping bridges of communications open between the Islamists and the establishment as the best way of serving the interests of the country.

The meeting was attended by the overall leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, and the spokesman of the Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc, Hamzah Mansur, among other leaders of the Islamic movement.

Little information was disclosed about what actually took place in the meeting but informed sources told the JORDAN TIMES it was held in a cordial and frank atmosphere with emphasis put on the need for continuing consultation and dialogue between the Islamic movement and the government.

the source told the JORDAN TIMES that the president of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament played an instrumental role in setting up the meeting. They said Mr. Mansur officially requested the meeting when Prince Hasan addressed the Foreign Affairs Committee in early December.

Meanwhile, IAF sources expected an improvement of relations between the government and the Islamic movement following the expected appointment of a new cabinet which is expected to be headed by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir next week.

The Islamists had had a good working relationship with the government of al-Sharif Zayd that resigned in May 1993.

The sources did not expect the Islamists to join the new government but said that a process of consultation will be established between the two sides, mainly through their 17-member parliamentary bloc.

They said that the "veto" within the Islamic movement against joining the government was no longer in effect in absolute terms.

"If we are approached to join the government, our decision will depend on the choice of the prime minister, his team and the government's programme," an IAF source said.

Relations between the government and the Islamists had gone sour since Dr. al-Majali formed his cabinet in May 1993 and the tension escalated after Jordan and Israel signed the Oct. 26 peace treaty.

The tension reached a high in October when six members of the IAF deputies boycotted the speech from the throne with which His Majesty King Husayn opened the second ordinary session of Parliament.

This unprecedented move incurred the wrath of most political groups in the country and resulted in their isolation from any leadership position in the House. The slide in relations has continued since then.

But sources said the Islamists were interested in improving relations with the government at this point, especially if the new government is headed by al-Sharif Zayd, who "respects the House and whose politics recognise the need for consultation with political powers in the country," as one independent Islamist deputy puts it.

The two sides have to work on improving relations, Mr. Mansur told the JORDAN TIMES. "We will do our part and we believe al- Sharif Zayd will do his part too," he said.

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Hizballah: Circumstances for Kidnappings 'Have Changed'

NC0501093895 Paris AFP in English 0901 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Jan 5 (AFP)—The Iranian-backed Hizballah said in a newspaper interview Thursday [5 January] that Americans "have nothing more to fear" in Lebanon, where several US nationals were killed and abducted in the 1980s.

"The political circumstances which had once justified the actions of some parties against US nationals have changed," Hizballah's deputy secretary general Shaykh Na'im Qasim told the French-language daily L'Orient-Le Jour.

Lebanon plans to dispatch a high-ranking delegation to Washington this month to discuss lifting a US travel ban to Lebanon imposed in 1985 after a series of murders and kidnappings of Americans by Moslem fundamentalist groups.

Washington has maintained the ban—due for renewal in February—citing the lack of security, namely at Beirut airport and the adjacent Shiite Moslem southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital, a Hizballah stronghold.

The independent Al-Nahar daily reported on Wednesday that the Americans were concerned by reports that Hizballah had established "cells" at the Beirut airport.

But Qasim dismissed these fears.

"For the past four years the airport has been under the control of the government authorities and the Syrian forces and there has been no incidents linked to Hizballah," he said.

"We have no office or representative there and the fact that were are present in districts near the airport does not mean that we are also deployed at the airport," Qasim told L'Orient Le-Jour.

He charged that the United States had "spies in our neighborhoods" and wanted "to set up files on the inhabitants" of the southern suburbs and other regions of Lebanon.

Hizballah, which is waging almost daily operations against Israeli troops in south Lebanon, has systematically denied any involvement in the kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon.

But the group consistently praised anti-US attacks.

Lebanon has allowed Hizballah to remain armed and continue the resistance in the south following the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

Says U.S. Concerns 'Excuses' for Committee

NC0601075495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has stressed that Lebanon no longer represents a danger to the Americans. In a press interview, he said the circumstances that once justified certain actions against U.S. nationals have changed.

Shaykh Qasim expressed his astonishment over Washington's concerns that Hizballah has a presence at Beirut airport. He said the Lebanese state and Syrian forces took control of security at Beirut airport four years ago, and no incidents linked to Hizballah have been recorded since. He added that we have no office or representative inside the airport. Our large presence near the airport does not mean that we are present inside the airport.

Shaykh Qasim said these are mere excuses that Washington has used to form the joint Lebanese-U.S. Security Committee. Shaykh Qasim accused the United States of setting up files on each citizen in the southern suburb and other areas.

Junblatt: Hizballah Will Not Carry Out Kidnappings

NC0601065595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the subject of the Lebanese-U.S. security committee, Minister Walid Junblatt, who visited the Iranian Embassy in Beirut yesterday, said that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz must go with some officers [to Washington] to explain again to the Americans that Lebanon is prepared to receive German and U.S. tourists. However, we do not need to explain whether Hizballah has a presence inside or outside the airport. He added that Hizballah is a struggling Islamic movement that is fighting in the south. I believe a final decision has been made and Hizballah will not kidnap tourists or others.

Amal Leader Raps Officials 'Eager To Please' U.S.

NC0601090095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has expressed surprise over the behavior of some Lebanese officials who are too eager to appease the Americans. Al-Musawi accused the Americans of supporting the Mosad in killing innocent people in the Sfayr area [reference to recent car bomb explosion], Lebanon, and the whole region. He said the Americans have formed the joint Lebanese-U.S. Security Committee to clear the airport and its surroundings of those who oppose U.S. designs.

Security Uncovers Alleged 'New Israeli Network'

NC0601104595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 6 Jan (MENA)—The Lebanese security agencies have uncovered a new Israeli network that was assigned the task of watching and spying on Hizballah and the Amal Movement bases in Beirut's southern suburb and in the liberated villages in south Lebanon. The security agencies late last week foiled

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an attempt to assassinate Lebanese Deputy Mustafa Sa'd in Sidon, south Lebanon, by detonating a car bomb in front of his home in Sidon. Sa'd enjoys wide popularity in south Lebanon for his pan-Arab stance. This attempt comes two weeks after a car bombing by a network of Israeli agents in which three Hizballah members were killed and 11 others were injured. A number of the network members are being tried before the Lebanese military tribunal.

Publishing this report today, the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR adds that three individuals implicated in this case have been arrested, including Husayn Hashim Juhayr. He was arrested a few days ago on charges of theft but after searching him he was found in the possession of a map indicating the home of deputy Mustafa Sa'd, telephone numbers belonging to the al-Naqurah area in the southernmost part of south Lebanon inside the occupied border strip, and the name of a restaurant in Israel.

AL-SAFIR says that during the interrogation, the defendant admitted that he has been dealing with the Israeli intelligence since 1984 and that he has been entrusted with security tasks by Israeli intelligence agents to provide them with information about party centers, the Palestinian Revolutionary Council centers, and watching individuals traveling into and from the occupied border strip who work for the Resistance. He also admitted that he was recently assigned the task of detonating a car bomb to assassinate deputy Mustafa Sa'd in Sidon. The paper says that the security agencies found in his home tools and materials for use in making the explosive charge. The defendants are expected to be referred to the military court for trial on charges of sabotage and spying for Israel.

Defense Minister on Peace Talks, Alexandria Summit

NC0401161895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 4 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has announced that Lebanon is willing to attend the meetings of the Syrian-Israeli military committee in Washington if it receives an invitation to do so and on condition that the discussions include the formation of a mechanism for Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanese territories in the south and the western al-Biqa' in addition to withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

In an interview with MENA's Beirut correspondent, Dallul said that the Lebanese Government has on more than one occasion stated its willingness to form a joint military committee with Israel to discuss a mechanism for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territories but only after Israel commits itself to withdrawal from the south and Western al-Biqa'.

Dallul stressed Lebanon's resolve to maintain parallel progress on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks, noting that any attempt to separate the two tracks will be rejected by both countries because such a separation would not serve the interests of either country. The Lebanese defense minister rejected any suggestion to halt the operations of the Lebanese national resistance or for a trial period with Israel test each other's intentions. He said: As long as our territory is occupied there will be no intentions-testing period.

Dallul declared that as long as one Israeli soldier remains on Lebanese territory, the resistance will continue, unless Israel announces its commitment to withdrawal and forms a mechanism to do so. In that case, Dallul remarked, no military operations against its territories will be carried out.

Dallul emphasized that the Lebanese Army is able to maintain security in all the Lebanese territories from which Israel will withdraw, noting that the Lebanese Government will guarantee that not one resistance operation against any other regional country will be carried out after the withdrawal takes place.

Commenting on the character of the Lebanese security committee that will hold talks with the U.S. Administration this month, Dallul said that its mission involves discussing the security of U.S. citizens visiting Lebanon, the prospects for lifting the ban on their travel to Lebanon, permission for U.S. airliners to land at Beirut International Airport, and landing rights for Lebanese airliners in U.S. territory. He explained that it was U.S. officials who asked that this committee be formed in order to learn about the security status in Lebanon, particularly at Beirut Airport.

Dallul explained that instructions have been given to this committee's members not to discuss any political issues connected with the peace negotiations, but to limit their mission to purely security affairs.

Dallul voiced doubts about the possibility of resuming the peace negotiations on the Lebanese-Syrian track any time soon, remarking: I feel that the current climate does not require the resumption of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, which have been frozen since February 1994 because Israel still clings to its intransigent stance, does not wish to abandon the occupied territories, and seeks to extend its hegemony over Lebanon. He said: Israel wants a peace that merely serves its own interests. We resolutely reject this.

The Lebanese defense minister praised the results of the Alexandria summit, declaring that it underscored Arab solidarity with Syria and Lebanon in the peace negotiations. He added that the summit constituted a message to Israel that normalizing its relations with the Arab countries will not be easy or smooth until its withdraws fully from the Arab territories.

He said that the Alexandria summit is also a message to the United States that it should put pressure on Israel to make it respond to the realistic proposal to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region, which cannot be implemented while the occupation continues.

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Dallul pointed out that the Alexandria summit also constitutes a message to some Arab countries that their eagerness to normalize relations with Israel will adversely effect Supreme pan-Arab interests, not merely Syrian and Lebanese interests.

He said that the message of the Alexandria summit exhorted all Arabs to show solidarity against the tide of Israeli hegemony and the Israeli schemes to deal separately with each Arab country.

Dallul remarked: We call on all Arab brothers to show responsiveness to the results of this Arab minisummit and assert their solidarity with the sound Arab stance that seeks an honorable and just Arab peace.

Muhsin Dallul counselled against linking the Middle East peace process with U.S. or Israeli electoral considerations. He declared: We must view the peace issue in isolation from electoral oneupmanship by political movements in the United States and Israel. Failure to do this will threaten the chances of peace in this region.

Regarding current reports that the Lebanese Army might enter the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in the wake of the escalation of the acts of physical violence among the various Palestinian factions, Dallul affirmed that the Lebanese Government has no wish to send the Army into the Palestinian camps. He said: Such a step is not being considered at all.

The Lebanese defense minister added: We wish to spare Palestinian blood and do not wish the Palestinians to fight each other inside the camps.

He noted that Lebanese officials will offer whatever good offices they can in order to prevent the shedding of Palestinian blood.

He explained that there are many ways of limiting the use of weapons inside the Palestinian camps and preventing conflicts and physical eliminations.

The Lebanese defense minister told MENA that he expects 1995 to be the year of a qualitative transformation in the Lebanese Army's combat capability and its strategic and military abilities. He noted that the Lebanese Army currently has an exceptional ability to maintain security everywhere in the country except in the occupied territories in the southern border strip and the Western al-Biqa'.

Dallul added that the Army is quite ready to assume responsibility for maintaining security after the Israelis withdraw from south Lebanon, noting that no party will be carrying weapons after this happens, apart from the Lebanese state's legal forces.

In conclusion, Dallul told MENA that the Army's various departments have established their credibility by uncovering all the crimes that were recently committed. He said this has allowed Lebanon enjoy a higher level of security and stability than many other countries.

Buwayz Reacts to Rabin's Rejection of Resolution 425

NC0501110195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Responding to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's rejection of recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 425, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that had Rabin recognized this resolution, there would have been no problem. He added that it is not new that Israel continues to demonstrate shrewdness in connection with this resolution. The foreign minister added: I believe that the solution of the problem is contingent upon Israel's recognition of this resolution.

To a question about Lebanon's participation in the negotiations, the foreign minister said that Lebanon is actually taking part in the negotiations and we have no objection to resuming the negotiations when we see new realistic and exiting proposals.

In his remarks, the foreign minister ruled out the possibility of convening an Arab summit soon.

Minister on Proposal To Transfer Palestinians to Gaza

NC0501151395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Michel al-Murr said today that the Lebanese proposal to transfer 2,000 Palestinians from the camps in Lebanon to the Gaza Strip to join the ranks of the Palestinian police there is in the interest of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Minister al-Murr said in an interview that a decision was made during the meetings of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council to ignore the proposal. It was replaced by another proposal to hold bilateral talks between the various countries and between each country and the PLO.

Israel Reportedly Approves Transfer

NC0501185895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing a Palestinian official in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp who refused to be named, AFP reports that Israel has approved the transfer of 2,000 PLO fighters from their current places in Jordan, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, and Lebanon to the Palestinian self-rule area.

The Palestinian official said an official source in Gaza informed him of this, explaining that Lebanon's share is 470 fighters.

According to the same source, Israel in return set a condition that their origin should be Gaza and the West Bank. He added that Israel categorically refused any of the 1948 refugees to join this group. The Palestinian official announced that Faruq Qaddumi, the official in charge of the PLO Political Department, will visit Lebanon soon to put the final touches to the transfer operation.

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Paper: Israel Intimidates by Separate Agreements

JN0501080795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article today, AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli attempt to intimidate Syria by offering separate agreements as an alternative to the just and comprehensive peace is clearly a trap based on the current deterioration on the Arab scene and the quest to expand and deepen that deterioration.

The paper adds: Syria has warned the Arabs of the serious dimensions of the Israeli objectives and Israel's rejection of the fair conditions for a just and comprehensive peace that would force Israel to fully withdraw from southern Lebanon and all occupied Arab territories.

The paper stresses that Syria refuses to relinquish its national and pan-Arab rights and will not accept Israeli diktats under any circumstance.

The paper stresses that Syria has warned against the threats of developments and called for Arab coordination and consultations. Syria, the paper adds, has tried and is still trying to close, strengthen, and fortify Arab ranks so that the Arabs can meet all challenges, restore balance to the peace process according to pan-Arab considerations, and stop the deterioration before it is too late.

Paper: Alexandria Summit To Stop Deterioration

JN0601075295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Importance of Joint Arab Action," AL-BA'TH discusses the importance of the Alexandria summit and its results.

The paper says: Despite the fact that it has been more than a week since it was convened, the summit is still the focus of analyses and comments by the media and politicians on both the Arab and international levels. This is due to the fact that the summit was held at a critical time in which the Arab nation is facing a very serious conditions. In the face of this painful reality, a move had to be made to discuss the situation of the nation and to put an end to the state of deterioration.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Alexandria summit brought together the leaders of three Arab states that believe that the joint Arab action, and the activation of that action, is the sure guarantee not only to regain Arab rights in full, but also to guarantee the nation's future, especially since there are signs emerging here and there of attempts to fragment the Arab nation and undermine its past, present, and future.

The paper stresses that the Alexandria summit has set concepts for stopping the deterioration of the Arab nation. These concepts are very important, and it is vital to translate these concepts into reality because this will benefit all Arab states. At head of these concepts is the return to the Arab League and its agencies, and the need to activate the role of the league and its agencies in all areas. This means, AL-BA'TH says, keeping away from the proposals promoted by Israel on the establishment of a new Middle East.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses that the nation requires a genuine awakening in order to protect our identity and future generations. This can be achieved only through effective and serious joint Arab action.

Paper Says Complete Withdrawal 'Only Road to Peace'

JN0601120995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the strange logic and the distorted concepts they [not further identified] are trying to impose and dictate through maneuvers, pressures, and various means.

The paper says: Syria has rejected this and continues to reject it with all its power and resolve. The kind of peace that Damascus considers a strategic option and for which it is working is the kind agreed upon at the Madrid Conference. It is the peace of the brave, a peace that ensures the return of all Arab rights and territory in the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied territories, including Jerusalem, as well as Israel's withdrawal to the borderlines of 4 June 1967. It is also a peace that guarantees security and dignity for all.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that these limping and partial solutions will never be our goal under any circumstance. The recent serious events in the occupied territories confirm that there is no alternative to full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal, the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the abandonment of the policy of aggression and usurpation. This alone constitutes the only road to peace.

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Afghanistan

Air Raids Protested to Russia, Tajikistan

LD0501173295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan handed over, via the political agencies of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Moscow and Dushanbe, its strong protest note to the relevant authorities of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, regarding the recent air raids on the Baharak, Darwaz, and Chahab districts, Badakhshan and Takhar provinces, by the Russian Federation, which caused heavy loss of life and material.

Denouncing the violation of our airspace and the savage attacks as contrary to the principles of good neighborliness and accepted international norms, the Foreign Ministry note reiterates that the violation by the Russian border forces under the pretext of responding to attacks by Tajiks is devoid of every legal and lawful basis.

The Foreign Ministry note adds that the Islamic State of Afghanistan strongly rejects the allegation of Tajik refugees' military training in the territory of our country, and asks the responsible authorities of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan to refrain from repeating such violations which produce nothing but the creation of tension and a massacre of our innocent people.

President Rabbani Meets With UN Special Envoy

Rabbani 'Ready' for Transfer of Power

LD0101175495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan met this morning with esteemed Mahmud Mestiri, special envoy of the secretary general of United Nations, and held talks with him. Reporting this point, the press office of the presidency added: During the meeting esteemed president of Afghanistan mentioned with satisfaction the activities of the special delegation of the UN secretary general to resolve problems related to Afghanistan and to ensure peace in the country. Then His Excellency Mahmud Mestiri briefed the esteemed president of Afghanistan about the activities of the delegation and the hope that has come about regarding the ensuring of peace in Afghanistan.

On the basis of another report the press office of the presidency adds: The second round of the talks of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president and president of the High Council of Afghanistan, with Mr. Mahmud Mestiri was held this afternoon with esteemed Mohammad Shah Fazli, president of the Supreme Court, and other members of the High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. At the beginning, the esteemed president noted the complete readiness of the Islamic state to reach an understanding and to resolve most problems of the country. Rabbani said: The Islamic State of Afghanistan is of the opinion that the people of the country shall decide about important national affairs and about issues related to the election of state leadership. It is for this reason that we have always turned to the people of our country and ask their views, will, and decision about Afghanistan. The esteemed president added: In keeping with its previous talks and readiness, the Islamic state is completely ready for the transfer of power. In line with the previous agreements we want the power to be transferred to such a person or mechanism as to represent the wishes and will of the people. The esteemed president added: Our expectation of the United Nations is for this world organization and its delegations' efforts to be directed in such a direction as to be able to help with and be effective in the realization of this wish of the Afghan people. The Islamic state is ready for any cooperation for the success of this world organization's efforts.

Then, giving detailed explanation about the efforts of the special UN delegation, Mestiri gave information about his talks and consultations with various Afghan sources. He said: All Afghan people want the ensuring of peace and the cessation of war in the country. To realize this wish of the Afghan people, the United Nations will surely further expand and escalate its efforts. Mestiri expressed gratitude and satisfaction for and praised the positive stance of the Islamic state and its readiness for the formation of such a broad based state administration that enjoys the support of all people of the country.

In the course of the talks, esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayd Mohammad Ali Jawed, esteemed Mawalawi Jalilollah Mawlawizada and esteemed Mohammad Akbari, members of the High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, stated in detail the proposals and views of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to achieve a political solution and to ensure peace in the country.

Mestiri Calls For 3-Day Cease-Fire

LD2912174094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts to end the crisis in Afghanistan are continuing. Our Islamabad correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Fresh talks aimed at bringing Afghanistan out of its current deadlock, which started following the end of Rabbani's presidential term on 28 December, have begun in earnest. Mahmoud Mestiri, the special UN peace envoy to Afghanistan whose mission is to prepare the way for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, is currently holding talks with various Afghan factions in Pakistan.

Mahmoud Mestiri met a delegation from the High Coordination Council, consisting of four anti-Rabbani

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groups, in Islamabad today. He called for the establishment of a three-day cease-fire in Kabul. According to an opposition spokesman, the council will give its response to the request on 31 December.

A spokesman of the Afghan president throughout these negotiations has maintained that there is no possibility of transferring power until the United Nations once again starts its mediation efforts to end the clashes in Afghanistan.

Currently, a number of Afghan groups for their parts have sent delegations to Kabul to establish peace in Afghanistan.

Also, a Sudanese peace delegation, headed by that country's vice president, arrived in Pakistan today. The delegation is to visit Afghanistan to hold talks with the leaders of Afghan groups.

Hekmatyar 'Satisfied' With Talks

LD0501221795 Tehran IRNA in English 2137 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 5, IRNA—Afghanistan's Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar in an interview [words indistinct] in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan Thursday [5 January] expressed optimism about an eventual solving of the situation in his country [words indistinct].

He said he was for a lasting cease-fire between rival factions in Afghanistan, and observed that political parties opposed to President Borhanoddin Rabbani were ready to collaborate [words indistinct]. The Afghan premier indicated that he had offered certain suggestions to the United Nations special envoy for Afghan affairs, Mahmoud Mestiri, in connection with the issue, though he did not elaborate. Meanwhile, he spoke in support for the formation of a commission of all parties and groups at which to discuss the ways and means for the creation of a provisional government as an interlude to a nationwide elections.

Earlier Thursday, Hekmatyar had met with Mestiri and proposed formation of an all party-Afghan commission to take over power from President Rabbani whose term in office lapsed on December 28.

"I am very much satisfied with my meeting with Mestiri," Hekmatyar told IRNA.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of his allied parties including Afghan National Front led by former President Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] led by 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari and the National Islamic Movement of northern Afghanistan led by Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

To a question, Hekmatyar described as, "childish", the opposition af Rabbani over the participation of General Dostam in Afghan peace process.

Disclosing details of his proposal, he said the proposed commission should form an interim government that finally conduct eslections in the war-torn country. Moreover, he called for removal of heavy weapons from the lawless country and opening of all roads that were currently manned by armed personnel of various Afghan groups. "We want an early solution to the crisis," he said but pinned, "doubts in sincerity," of his rivals in this regard.

He did not set any deadline for transfer of power from Rabbani but said, "we want solution as early as possible."

Hekmatyar said he also had a meeting with US ambassador to Islamabad John C. Monjo. Describing the meeting as, "friendly and fruitful" he said they discussed issue of power transfer from Rabbani. Hekmatyar said he felt some "shift" in US policy towards Afghan crisis but did not elaborate on it.

Hekmatyar Meets Opposition Party Official

LD3112153194 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Hekmatyar, amir of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan and leader of the Islamic Revolution, met Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Modaber, head of the secretariat of the Harakat-e Eslami [progovernment faction led by Mohammad Asef Mohseni] [words indistinct].

The correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom reports that a glorious reception was given yesterday in Charasiab in honor of esteemed Mohammad Sadeq Modaber.

Esteemed Mohammad Sadeq Modaber was first warmly welcomed in Charasiab by Mojahed Brother Hekmatyar and a number of officials who took part in this reception.

At this reception in honor of Mohammad Sadeq Modaber, Brother Hekmatyar delivered a scholarly speech and spoke in detail about the recent deceptive statement by the coalition [?administration].

At this reception [name indistinct], member of the central council of Wahdat-e Eslami, also spoke and shed light on the current issues and situation.

Mohammad Ashraf Shahkar, [?representative] of the National Islamic Movement in Kabul, also spoke at this meeting. [passage indistinct]

Joint Reconciliation Council Discusses Peace Issues

LD0401204495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Joint Reconciliation Association of Afghanistan held a meeting today under the chairmanship of esteemed Dr. 'Abdol Hai Allahi, secretary of the association. During the session the country's

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current issues were discussed and the following decisions were rendered regarding the consolidation of peace and commencement of a new and constructive stage in the country's socio-political life:

1. To end the fighting and safeguard peace, and to utilize the present opportunities for the restoration of peace and stability.

2. To stress the need for the active presence of the United Nations and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] in finding a solution to the country's problems.

3. The need to transfer political power to a relatively broad commission consisting of no more than 30 people.

4. The sides forming this commission, which will then acquire political power as the supervisory council of the interim government, will consist of the government side; the opposition side; two reconciliation foundations—that is to say one from inside and another from outside the country; scholars from inside and outside the country; formations outside the government's structure, and the belligerent sides.

President Meets U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan

LD0401191695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Press Office of the Presidency reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan this morning received His Excellency John Monjo [U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan], while esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs was present, and also met him. During the meeting Esteemed Monjo first expressed his country's interest in peace in Afghanistan, and promised his country's participation in, and economic assistance with the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Then esteemed president of Afghanistan mentioned with gratitude the humanitarian assistance of the friendly countries, among them the United States of America during the jihad and emigration and said: The people of Afghanistan expected that Afghanistan's friendly countries, among them the United States, would not leave us after the victory of the Islamic revolution, and would help our people in the alleviation of their pains that had emanated from the aliens' aggression. I hope that the wish of the Afghan people will be responded to positively, and the needed aid is provided to the Afghan people, especially the residents of Kabul, in these harsh economic circumstances.

According to another report, the BAKHTAR Information Agency says that esteemed Eng. Ahmad Shah Masud met this noon with His Esteemed Excellency John Monjo, America's ambassador in Islamabad. During the meeting talks were conducted about efforts in connection with the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan.

According to another report, His Excellency Monjo arrived in Afghanistan this morning for talks with Afghan officials. He left this afternoon at 1430 for Islamabad.

Money Changers Arrested in Paktia Province

LD0501175495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source in Paktia Province reported today to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that a number of money-changers in Paktia Province who were refusing to deal with 5,000 and 10,000 Afghani banknotes were captured and arrested.

The source added that esteemed Mowlawi 'Abdol Latif Mansur, governor of Paktia Province, and esteemed Mohammad Ebrahim, commander of the 3rd Army Corps of Paktia, have issued instructions that those money-changers who refuse to deal with 5,000 and 10,000 Afghani banknotes are to be arrested and brought to justice.

Bangladesh

Zia Details Government's Economic Achievements

BK0601025195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia says her government is leading the country forward on the path of development and prosperity. Addressing a big public meeting at Chandina High School maidan [grounds] in Comilla yesterday, she said Bangladesh economy has become strong, per capita income of the people increased, employment opportunities have been created, and poverty level reduced. The prime minister expressed her confidence that in future the country might not depend any more on foreign assistance in any field if the present trend of development can be maintained unhindered.

Begum Zia said the country has been able to attract much foreign investments during the three and half years and could have been able to attract even more if there had not been any destructive programs of the opposition like hartals [strikes], sieges, and blockades. She said the government has fulfilled all its election pledges as well as improved the living standard of the peasants, government employees, and all other segments of the population. It is now working for further improving the lot of the teeming millions. The prime minister said the size of the Annual Development Program [ADP] has been raised to 11,500 crore taka in the current financial year compared with mere 5,000 crore taka in 1989-90 fiscal year. Mentioning that Bangladesh is now financing 38 percent of its ADP, (?which was) less than zero percent during the (?last five) fiscal years of the autocratic regime, Begum Zia expressed optimism that if disruptive

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activities are stopped and peace is maintained, Bangladesh shall soon stand on its own feet.

Referring to the newly launched [words indistinct] credit up to 25 laka taka for initiating various poultry farming, pisciculture, tree plantation, and other self-employment generating projects, the prime minister asked the people to avail the credit and stand on their own feet as well as help Bangladesh to become self-reliant. Emphasizing the need for advancement of the women folk, she said in the future women of the country will no longer remain backward. Begum Zia assured the gathering that Chandina will be made a pourashaba [municipality], local roads made pucca [paved], rural electrification network will be expanded, educational institutions developed, and thana [subdistrict] health complex raised to a 50-bed one.

Life 'Disrupted' Due to Opposition Strike

BK0301094295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Bangladesh, normal life in capital Dhaka has been disrupted on the second day of the opposition sponsored three-day general strike. The streets wear a deserted look with markets, educational institutions and private offices remaining closed. The attendance in government offices is also thin.

The call for eight-hour daily strike was given by the opposition to press their demand for immediate general elections under a neutral caretaker government. Meanwhile, the stalemate following en masse resignation by the opposition in the parliament continues. While the opposition has declared the resignation as final, the ruling side is still optimistic about resolving the impasse through fresh negotiations.

BNP, Independents Submit Nomination Papers

BK0201025095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Four BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] nominees and 11 independent candidates have submitted nomination papers for the by-elections in four vacant Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] constituencies to be held on the 25th of this month. The constituencies are: Nator-3, Bakarganj-6, Brahmanbaria-6, and Sherpur-3. Nator-3 constituency had fallen vacant at the death of Jamaat[-i-Islami] MP, Mohammad Abu Bakar; Bakarganj-6, at the death of State Minister for Education Mohammad Yunus Khan; Sherpur- 3, at the death of BNP MP, Dr. Mohammad Sirajul Haq; and Brahmanbaria-6, at the death of BNP MP Wali Ashraf. The scrutiny of the nomination papers are being held today and the last date for the withdrawal of candidature is the 9th of this month.

India

PRC Uranium Sale Seen as 'Significant Development'

BK0601044095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jan 95

[Commentary by R. Ramachandran]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The agreement reached by the Indian Department of Atomic Energy with China for the sale of light enriched uranium for fuelling India's two light water reactors, LWR's, at Tarapur should be regarded as a significant foreign policy move. Since October 1993, after France refused to supply enriched uranium for the two reactors built by the General Electric of the USA, the future of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station seemed uncertain. The mainstay of the Indian nuclear program is based on natural uranium fuel pressurized heavy water reactors, and India as yet does not have a large-scale enrichment facility. An alternate source for the fuel was imperative. China always appeared to be a possibility and now it has been realized.

When the Tarapur reactors were being built, India entered into a 30-year agreement with the USA in 1963 for the supply of enriched uranium fuel, but following the 1974 Pokhran nuclear test the U.S. pulled out from the agreement. However, the U.S. allowed France to step in and supply fuel instead. Thus, effectively, the fuel part of the India-U.S. agreement was transferred to France, which resumed fuel supply in 1981. But once the 30-year period expired in 1993, France under U.S. influence began insisting on India implementing a comprehensive full-scope safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] which would bring all nuclear facilities under safeguards. India regards this as being tantamount to the discriminatory NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] which New Delhi has consistently opposed.

Since Tarapur has another 10 years of life at least, alternative strategies to keep the reactor going had to be devised. The chief technological alternative that Indian nuclear establishment has chalked out is the use of plutonium-uranium mixed oxide fuel, MOX, in part of the reactor core. In principle, the use of MOX fuel does not necessarily require enriched fuel. Even natural uranium or depleted uranium obtained from reprocessing Tarapur's spent fuel over the years can be used in conjunction with a higher fraction of MOX in the core. But MOX content can be increased only gradually. Till then, say for a couple of years, 2-3 percent enriched uranium would be necessary. The burning of the last batch of French fuel in the reactor would be nearing its completion in a few months time. It is for the subsequent loadings of enriched fuel that India has entered into a commercial contract with the Chinese agency. Though the fuel will be under the IAEA safeguards, China has not insisted on full-scope safeguards like France had

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demanded. The contract, therefore, marks a significant development in Indo-Chinese relations.

Diplomatic Relations With U.S. in 1994 Viewed

BK0501130995 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 31 Dec 94 p 8

[Article by Sunil Adam, foreign correspondent of THE PIONEER: "How the West Was Won in 1994"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Diplomatic historians will probably remember 1994 as the year when the disequilibrium in Indo-US relations of the preceding four years was corrected. The period between summer of 1990, when the then President George Bush despatched the Gates Mission to South Asia to defuse tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, and summer of 1994, when US President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao met in Washington, was the high point of US nuclear initiatives in South Asia. If the heightened US diplomacy was fuelled by fears of South Asia becoming a theatre of nuclear conflict, India's defensive responses were a result of its domestic political uncertainty and the tense regional security environment.

The disequilibrium became pronounced under the Clinton Administration, thanks to the policy changes it made both in substance and style. However, unexpected developments between October 1993 and May 1994, and their prompt exploitation by the Rao Government, enabled India not only to weather Washington's nonproliferation enthusiasm, but also restore a healthy balance in the relationship. This has stemmed the tide of anti-Americanism across India that nearly derailed the ongoing process of normalisation of Indo-US relations.

Today, the atmospherics have altered to the extent that four news reports published recently pertaining to the deferred deployment of Agni and Prithvi missiles, alleged US preference of the Dixon plan to resolve the Kashmir question, and US Ambassador, Mr Frank Wisner's meetings with Mr TN Seshan and Mr Arjun Singh in connection with India's domestic matters, have not elicited the traditional frenzied responses even from sections with a cultivated distrust of the United States.

A possible explanation for such affable detachment is Mr Wisner's diplomatic style. His "quiet diplomacy" over issues of contention such as nonproliferation and Kashmir on the one hand, and his personal accessibility to the media, intelligentsia and other components of New Delhi's "functional elite" on the other, has left little room for carping. The balance between "quiet" and "public" diplomacy has kept at bay negative speculation that has always been the bane of Indo-US relations.

On the substantive side, the presence of the US envoy in New Delhi has facilitated a better understanding of the merits of the Clinton Administration's incremental approach to the resolution of outstanding bilateral and regional problems. For instance, the "cap, roll back and eventually eliminate" formula towards South Asian nonproliferation is a marked departure from the previous US policy that focused on the outright elimination of Indo-Pak weapon capability.

Indo-US Quid Pro Quo

On the question of Kashmir, President Clinton's policy has differed from that of Mr Bush who relied on promoting Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between India and Pakistan as a prelude to peaceful resolution of that dispute. As a senior US official in Washington told this author, the Clinton White House has given up on the CBMs and instead decided that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute is a necessary condition for peace in South Asia.

Whether or not India agrees with the altered perspective and priorities of US diplomacy in the region, there is now a clear understanding of the American policy and its rationale. And the qualitative change that has come about is that neither is New Delhi questioning the bona fides of Washington to play the role of a "facilitator", nor is the State Department holding South Block responsible for inadequate progress. Such salubrious state of affairs has come about both by design and default.

The turbulence in Indo-US relations in the first year of the Clinton presidency had to do with the very incrementalism that is now being viewed as a virtue. While India could say no to the earlier US "sign NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] or nothing approach", it could not reject the step-by-step strategy towards denuclearisation, thanks to the post-Cold War momentum towards global disarmament—the emerging consensus on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and President Clinton's proposal for a fissile material cut-off convention. Although supporting the latter was not a problem for India, Washington's hamhanded insistence on making corresponding progress on the regional track became a source of discord.

At least until the last quarter of 1993, Mr Narasimha Rao could not entirely reject US overtures for two reasons. First, he needed US assistance for the success of his Government's economic liberalisation. Second, India needed the US to play a restraining role on Islamabad lest it should take advantage of the prevailing political uncertainty not only in Kashmir, but in other sensitive areas of the country following the Babri episode and the Bombay blasts. As a concession, India had accepted in principle to participate in a multilateral conference on regional nonproliferation in September 1993. It was the same proposal that Mr Rao rejected in January '93 when he met President Bush at the Security Council summit.

Clinton's Top Priority

But the seemingly hopeless situation was salvaged by South Block which used the furore caused by the Indian media's irresponsible expose of Ms Robin Raphel's

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views on Kashmir to its advantage by putting Washington on the defensive. Although, the Government of India remained detached, the clumsy manner in which the State Department tried to repeal the Pressler Amendment, had also weakened the US bargaining position.

The Clintonites did worse by rushing to finalise the details of the multilateral conference in time for US-India summit. But, the timely expose of the "secret" London talks by the Indian media helped the Rao Government to wriggle out of the American agenda. Prime Minister Rao used the rising tide of anti-Americanism at home to tell Washington to back-off from both nonproliferation and Kashmir. In fact, there are not a few in Washington who believe that the news leak about London talks was orchestrated by the PMO [Prime Minister's Office].

Indian diplomatic strategy was so effective that it has for all practical purposes killed the multilateral conference proposal. Of course the growing US corporate sector interest in Indian economy, and the intense lobbying of US Commerce and Energy departments, not to mention the Pentagon's interest in links with India, have also put paid to the State Department's strategic agenda in South Asia. India's bargaining position with the US was also strengthened in direct proportion to Mr Rao's political consolidation and the dramatic recovery of the economy.

This is not to suggest that the US has lost in the diplomatic gambit. The Americans are happy India has given up its traditional intransigence and is willing to negotiate contentious issues. They feel that there is now a better appreciation in New Delhi of India's priorities and obligations in the post cold war world. If there is inadequate progress on the nuclear and Kashmir questions, it is being compensated by India's emergence as a reasonably important target of US economic interest, the promotion of which is now the number one priority of Mr Clinton in his bid for a second term.

Paper Questions U.S. 'Concern' Over Missile Program

BK0501130295 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 29 Dec 94 p 1, 11

[Article by Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, director of Indian Defense Studies and Analysis]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Lynn Davis recently said in Washington that India should give up its nuclear program and should not deploy the surface-to-surface missile 'Prithvi', which has been developed from indigenous technology. Here the fact is being ignored that missiles are already deployed in the region and if India is to ensure its defense capabilities, it cannot do it without these missiles. It is difficult to understand how only India's missiles endanger regional peace while other regional countries have already acquired foreign missiles and related technology. China has deployed hundreds of missiles with nuclear and nonnuclear warheads. It is also going to develop three new class of accurate mobile missiles. These new missiles will be deployed within the next six years. During the eighties, China developed the M-11 and M-9 missiles especially for export purposes. Pakistan has admitted several times that it has acquired surface-to-surface missiles from China.

According to London's reputable Institute of International Strategic Studies, Pakistan had deployed Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 missiles by 1992. Both these missiles have a range of 300 km. It is also developing the Hatf-3 missile, which will have a range of 600 km. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia under an agreement acquired CSS-2 ballistic missiles from China in 1988 which have a range of 2,700 km. It is worth considering that the Missile Technology Control Regime—MTCR—had come into force one year before the China-Saudi Arabian agreement. In 1992, Chinese experts modified these missiles. These missiles have been deployed south of Riyadh for the last five years. If these missiles are defensive in nature, they would have been used against the Iraqi missile attacks on Saudi Arabia in 1991. Since they were not used, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that they have a specific attack role. It is worth mentioning that these missiles deployed in Saudi Arabia can target Western India. The supply of these missiles violated the MTCR, but the United States did not take any action in this connection.

Afghanistan acquired hundreds of Scud missiles from the erstwhile Soviet Union which are still present in the vicinity. Iran not only deployed the surface-to-surface missile, but used them against Iraq as well. It also has special ties with China and North Korea in connection with the development of long range missiles. It recently concluded an agreement with North Korea for missiles and related technology worth $500 million. Here again, while talking about the deployment of ballistic missiles, we are not including the American and Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles and the submarine-fired ballistic missiles of the five nuclear powers.

The United States well knows that there is no reliable defense system against ballistic missiles. Even countries like the United States have to spend billions of dollars for the next 10-20 years to deploy such a system. If any country wants to face the threat posed by ballistic missiles, it has to go for a counter-offensive missile system. This is what India is doing; and the United States is targeting it through its discriminatory nonproliferation policies. The United States suggests that India should not deploy the 150-km range 'Prithvi' missile lest it begin an arms race in the subcontinent. The United States is differentiating between capability and deployment, the fine details of which need deeper consideration.

Nearly all missiles in South Asia are of a mobile type. If any country is requested to keep possession of its missiles but not deploy them, how can it be verified whether

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missiles have really been deployed or not? Defense planners of any country only consider the existing capabilities. That is why the United States while negotiating INF had emphasized the inclusion of the Soviet missiles in Asia because they could be redeployed anywhere during a crisis. The difference between deployment and nondeployment can only be described as academic.

There must be some other reasons for the U.S. opposition to the deployment of the 'Prithvi' missiles. It is logical to say that after the deployment of 'Prithvi', Pakistan would take out M-11 missiles from the crates and fit them on the launchers. This, however, should not be a cause for concern for us because Pakistan could do this any time under any conditions. But then the United States would have to act against China and Pakistan in the light of the MTCR, for which it would have to pay a price.

On the other hand, the U.S. goal could be to prevent the development of the medium range 'Agni' missile by opposing 'Prithvi'. There is a link between the 'Prithvi' and the 'Agni'. It appears that the 'Agni' program is running on a delayed basis or, as some sources in India say, some complications have been experienced. If the United States is successful in preventing the deployment of the 'Prithvi', its case for preventing the development of the 'Agni' will become strong.

The development of our missile capabilities is aimed at experimenting with nonnuclear weapons—there are five such types [of weapons] for 'Prithvi' alone. It is also clear that without keeping the 'Agni' program going, it will be useless to talk about the policy of keeping the nuclear option open. That is why it is imperative that the 'Agni' program should also be continued, even if it takes some time. Can we give legitimacy to the U.S. concern without compromising our defense requirements?

In the meantime, it will be wise to deploy the 'Prithvi' under the Army's Central Command. India should not be expected to unilaterally give up its defense options against the threat of ballistic missiles. By asking India not to deploy the 'Prithvi' and not to develop the 'Agni', the United States is displaying a peculiar insensitivity to India's basic defense concerns in this sensitive region.

Rao Speech Reviews Industrialized Economy

BK0401122595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0451 GMT 4 Jan 95

[Speech by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao inaugurating the Partnership Summit marking the CII centennial celebrations in Calcutta on 4 January—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Respected Jyoti Babu [chief minister of West Bengal], president of the CII [Confederation of Indian Industries] Shri Bhargava, Chief Minister [of Karnataka] Devegowdaji, excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen: I am happy to be present here on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the Confederation of Indian Industries. There is a special significance in the fact that these are being held in Calcutta. This city has played a pioneering role in the industrialization of our country. It was our first industrial and commercial center with special concentration of activity on tea, jute, and engineering. With its strategic location, it will remain the focal point of the growth of eastern India. With new initiatives and impetus coming as a result of the new policies, I am confident that the city and this entire region will undergo a transformation. I should also congratulate you for a great achievement of very recent origin and that augues well for the industrialization of this region. Things have changed so much that yesterday's opponents have become today's protectors, and that is a matter of satisfaction. [applause].

I offer my congratulations to CII on this happy occasion. The transition of CII from a body with five engineering company members in 1895 to its present status of an apex institution with around 3,000 members, including large, medium, and small industries is indeed a commendable achievement. Mr. President, your institution now represents a diverse cross-section of business and industry interests. The distance you have covered so successfully indeed augurs well for the long journey ahead.

Talking of journeys, it is undoubtedly an apt occasion to reflect on where we were, where we were, where we are now, and where we aim to go. There is no need for me to recount the details of the deep economic crisis we faced in 1991. All of you present here, no doubt, have a personal, first-hand knowledge of that crisis. It is as well that people seem to have forgotten those days, which is one of the good characteristics of human nature. Let us, therefore, look at where we are.

You have noted, Mr. President, that we see a revival in the economy, and particularly in the sector of industry. The growth in the manufacturing sector in the first four months of the year at 9 percent is no doubt encouraging. Since it is widespread and covers all segments of the industrial sector, it adds great strength to the economy. Infrastructure industries have been showing persistent improvement in the last three years. The performance of the capital goods sector and units manufacturing consumer goods has also been improving consistently. The adjustment of the new economic environment is across the board.

The agriculture sector has made an extremely important contribution to the economic revival and, in fact, provides momentum to all other sectors of the economy. Our food stocks of over 30 million tons and our foreign exchange reserves of almost $20 billion give us reassurance and confidence. This is indeed a great change from the conditions that prevailed in 1991.

Mr. President, ladies, and gentlemen. The revival that we witness today has no doubt been achieved through hard work and a great deal of extra effort. The farmer in the villages has worked hard. The worker in industry has

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worked hard and so have the managers and captains of industries. This widespread response to reforms we announced in 1991 has made it possible for all of us together to pull the country out of the crisis. By any standards, it has been a herculean effort. We should be heartened by our success so far and should move forward with renewed commitment.

[FBIS Transcribed Text] I have always held that the surest guarantee for success in any endeavor is to back it up with a general consensus. In our case, the reforms have moved forward thus far because of their wide acceptability. It has been my effort, is my effort, and will be my effort that the broad parameters of our economic policies based on these reforms should be backed by a consensus in order to provide a policy with true stability. Today, as I take stocks, I am heartened to find that this is indeed so. I am sure that all states need and desire rapid industrialization, including in private sector. Some state governments are sometimes angry with the central government for not providing them with the money they demand, but their anger is tempered with the knowledge that the central government also really does not have that kind of money they are demanding. They demand industries in the public sector quite validly, but reluctantly agree to have those industries in the private sector for the excellent reason that they are after all necessary for the people.

As for myself, I ask for no more as of now, and I should like to announce with no hesitation that we are firmly committed to our reforms program and shall move forward with confidence. [applause] Let the country and the world see for themselves that our reforms program rests on solid and stable foundations. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, let me add here that stability must not be confused with rigidity. Reforms have their genesis in a realization that change is necessary. The economic policies that we followed in India since independence brought us to a stage of development that sustained us well until 1991. Even earlier, the need for change was felt and in the late 1980's some changes were introduced. The crisis of 1990 and 91 only hastened the process. Reforms are based on the gains of the earlier policies. If deregulation and liberalization became possible in 1991, it was only because the intrinsic strength of the various sectors of the economy had grown during the period since independence under the wise guidance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and recently of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, whose party manifesto of 1991 is a clear and unmistakable pointer to what was to come.

Our growth in agriculture has made us self-sufficient. Our industry was strong enough to cope with more open external contacts, both in terms of competition and collaboration. There is an underlining continuity in our policy that provides the basis for our reforms. Changes were made in response to emerging needs and realities. I have no hesitation in stating that the same spirit of responding to emerging domestic needs will guide the future course of reforms as they evolve hereafter. As we proceed with the reforms, shortcomings—wherever they are seen—would be sought to be removed. I welcome suggestions for improvement notwithstanding their source, be they from you all or from my fellow political leaders, from professionals or from the people. All this, however, will be entirely compatible with the reforms policy and will indeed be strengthening the policies, sometimes by urging refinements in the policy and sometimes by highlighting the human face which was a part of the policy from day one.

I would in this connection like to refer briefly to the recent debate where criticism has been voiced for the reforms. It has been said that the new policies have not benefited the poorer sections of society. Coming from a rural background and having had the experience of one meal a day during my studies for the degree course, my concern for the poor happens to be quite genuine. Through the decades after independence, each government has been grappling with the problem of poverty. One important cause of our not being able to overcome this yet has been our inability to achieve rates of growth that were high enough. The percolation benefits of growth have not been able to deal with the problem. The reforms aim at substantial acceleration of our rate of growth, but realizing that percolation is time-consuming, I decided on a lateral injection of resources at the level of the village to assist the poor by providing much more than ever before for employment generation, education, health and other social needs.

This has come to be known as the bypass model, which takes care of one important cause of poverty in the countryside, namely lack of full employment in the village throughout the year and consequent forced migration of rural people to towns in search of employment. In order to soften, if not eliminate, the hardship of inflation, which has generally accompanied reforms all over the world, I introduced the revamped public distribution system to provide food aid to the poor at a specially subsidized rate. For the industrial workers who might face hardship, a safety net was provided through the national renewal fund. No effort has been spared to keep inflation as low as possible. I mentioned these not so much to convey information as to reiterate that we did not go into the reforms blindfolded but after full anticipation of the difficulties involved and a conscious effort provided for them in advance so that while the reforms are on, some benefit reaches all sections of society. All-round benefit alone will be the test of the reforms eventually.

During the period that it takes the benefits to become widespread, I shall have special schemes designed to reach those sections of society that receive benefits with a time lag. To me, statistics of rates of growth have little meaning. I have laid emphasis on the human face from the very beginning and that is how we have made efforts to proceed. What is now needed is alertness to detect setbacks that may occur from time to time and to deal with them effectively and promptly. From recent experiences, I have also concluded that while industries are

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being set up, the common people have to be made to perceive the industrialization of the country as being to their own ultimate benefit and not something anti-poor as would be whispered in their ears by interested quarters.

I would at the same time like to stress that the real answer to the situation cannot be found in palliatives that might reduce the severity of symptoms but would ultimately only aggravate the maladies. I do understand the dilemma of the politician everywhere who in the absence of a genuine consensus on difficult measures, tends to accord primacy to measures of immediate benefit. There is, thus, a real need to reconcile and harmonize the short-term aspects of direct benefits to persons and families with the long-term aspects of benefits to the community which obviously also benefit individuals, albeit in an indirect manner. Our program must, therefore, be appropriate to the individual, the household and the community and also bring about a convergence of the efforts in all the three directions at the micro level. This has been our thrust in the eighth plan. A large jump in the allocation for rural development from 11,000 crores to 30,000 crores in this plan includes schemes for employment generation, employment assurance, ICDS [Integrated Community Development Scheme], immunization, education, and several other social needs. There is always the need to fine-tune these schemes according to the needs and demands of the people from time to time. However, it is not enough just to mount the schemes; coupled with schemes there has to be a massive, intensive, and continuous campaign of educating the masses of the people in their own idiom so as to remove the hiatus in perception which so often causes upheavals of various kind. This change of idiom at the grass-roots level is of crucial importance and I am not sure we have done all that needed to be done in this respect so far.

Pursuing the path of high growth rates calls for collective efforts. Elimination of procedural hindrances by government is necessary to create the necessary environment to allow entrepreneurship to grow, to develop, and to thrive. We have attempted to do that. It is for the entrepreneurs now to unleash the process of growth by investment, higher production, and greater efficiency. New investment and growth will generate additional employment and incomes. Consequent to growth in incomes will come increase in demand and so the spiral will take shape. The entire pyramid will grow. The concept appears simple and clear, but applied to our country with its size, population and social complexities, it is an extremely difficult task to achieve smoothly.

With the environment for growth having been improved, the question of resources arises. Questions of technology, quality, productivity and competitiveness arise. In dealing with these issues, we have to face the problem of external factors. Those of investment and technology become relevant, access to markets becomes important. Our economy can be seen only as part of the global economy. We cannot remain an island, but have to see ourselves as part of the global system. At the same time, the island itself has to be in existence, and there could be no jettisoning in the national interest.

What is being called globalization is, in fact, only the effort to create conditions for becoming part of the world. It is only then that we can expect to get from the rest of the world what we require for the good of our own country. I am sure that there would be no voice of dissent in our attempt to do that. But there is no globalization merely for its own sake. It has to be woven round the abiding interests of the people of India. However, since nothing is available for nothing, we can achieve our objectives only if there is a demonstrable mutuality of benefits between the transferrer and the transferee. The global economy is almost entirely driven by market forces and these considerations can be overlooked only at our own peril. In our reforms, we have made an attempt to recognize this reality. We have no obsession with globalization, but we do try our best to understand reality.

Some criticism has been voiced that foreign investors would swamp our economy. In this connection, I can only say that so far, even though the response to our policies has been encouraging and foreign investment has been attracted, it takes us nowhere near fulfillment of our requirements. I do not see this gathering as one which feels the danger of being swamped tomorrow. I feel that there is an air of great confidence here, self-confidence here, and so this is the real answer to the criticism that is being leveled. [applause]

I would like to repeat two features of these foreign investment proposals to reassure everyone that neither are we being swamped nor are we selling away our country. This is another [words indistinct] of some our friends. Firstly, almost 90 percent of the proposals of foreign investment are in joint ventures, that is, in partnership with Indian entrepreneurs. Secondly, we had announced our clear preference for investment in infrastructure and other priority industries. So far, of the investment amount in the proposals received, over 80 percent is in these very areas of our preference. Priority areas have been identified for foreign investment and a major share of investment approved is in sectors such as power, petroleum, metallurgical industries, chemicals, electronics, electrical equipment, et cetera.

The apprehension that foreign investors are only interested in the consumer goods sector for access to India's market is not borne out by the proposals received in [as heard] government or approvals accorded. A few high visibility cases can cause a misleading impression. Industrial and infrastructure projects have a longer gestation period. Once these projects come on stream, the tangible benefits of increased production and employment will be there for all to see.

Small-scale industry has a dynamic role in our development. This sector gives employment to almost 140 lakh

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persons directly and manufactures about 7,500 products. While this sector has been adjusting fairly well with the reforms, the government will enhance support to it. Credit, which is vital to the sector, has been increased by 4,000 crores between 1992 and 1994. Specialized branches of public sector banks for small-scale industries are already in existence and 100 more are in the offing. SIDLI [expansion unknown] will assist in technology upgradation and modernization in cluster areas like Aligarh, Ludhiana, coastal Kerala, and Howrah. The government will also assist small-scale units in developing contacts with similar units abroad where they find it difficult to do so themselves.

We shall assign one officer each in government's missions in countries where small-scale industries advanced exclusively to assist our small-scale units to ensure the technology they seek. [sentence as heard] With many more such measures, I am sure that our small-scale industry will rise up to the new challenges and flourish in the new environment.

Questions regarding appropriate technology invariably prop up when discussing issues related to an economy with India's endowments and factors of production. There is no across-the-board answer for this. It varies from industry to industry. Some industries will inevitably be capital intensive. This has little to do with reforms or foreign investment. Many of the industries set up in our own public sector have a high capital intensity. There are other sectors where labor incentive methods of production are available and are competitive. World over, we have been witnessing shifts in location on account of high-wage rates and cheaper alternatives available elsewhere. This applies to diverse sectors such as textiles, leather manufacture, electronics, and several others. Investment shifts from other locations to India are often taking place precisely for these reasons and these would be high employment generation industry.

This is part of the natural process of economic decision-making and it will be naive to assume that industries will deliberately be set up in India with high capital intensity without the consideration of relative prices and our established comparative advantage. At the same time, where capital intensive technology is more hand-in-hand with higher productivity and wages, it should be welcomed rather than shunned. The decision finally would again be based on market forces.

I see no evidence that our entrepreneurs have been deficient in judgment. Nevertheless, It may not be out of place to emphasize the need for very careful selection of technology. In this connection, availability of technologies within the country also needs careful scrutiny by intending importers of technology. In due course, absorption and adaptation of technology is not as important as having the capacity to generate technology. We have capabilities and we must make optimum use of our endowments in this field. There is no real substitute for in-house R and D in order to keep up competitive advantage, particularly when the technological improvements elsewhere are very rapid and the rate of (?absorption) very high.

It is well recognized that the system of controls and permits leads to erosion of honesty. The liberalization process is dismantling these controls. I am painfully aware that during this transition when we are moving from the license raj [system] to the liberalized system, structural adjustments, procedural and attitudinal changes have yet to take root. Some unscrupulous persons have taken advantage to indulge in malpractices. I would strongly condemn this tendency, but at the same time I do not believe that the direction in which we are now going needs to be given up merely on account of these incidents. The real answer lies in freedom of decision-making, reduction in government controls, reduction in poverty, plentiful production and availability.

For some years past, one finds the heartening awareness of the need to preserve environment. As we chart our course of development, there is greater realization that we need to make it sustainable and environmentally sound. We owe it to the people of this country to conserve our natural heritage. Our own efforts supplemented where necessary by an access to the technologies being used elsewhere should enable us to avoid problems of environmental degradation. In fact, I would like to add that in this respect India is by no means behind the other countries, because what technologies they have used so far has been wasteful, has been disastrous, and needs to be jettisoned forthwith. They also are groping for new technologies. So, we are really not very much behind them. We are more or less abreast with them and it is possible for all of us—the other countries as well as ourselves—to make this great contribution to the world as a whole, to the planet as a whole, so that with collaboration we are able to find ways and means of saving the environment.

Agenda 21, which we had accepted in the World Environment Summit in Brazil two years ago, is a good example and I am sure things are being done in accordance with the agenda, although nothing is really free from difficulties when it is applied to a complicated world and a complicated situation, but I feel that things are hopeful, they are looking up and the environmental aspect of the world, so far as its future is concerned, is not going to be as bleak as it has been. It should be possible to pursue technologies which result in higher environmental standards, conservation of natural resources, and efficient waste management. There are numerous examples of initiatives which have resulted in preventing damage to the environment and at the same time have been cost effective. Our concerted efforts are essential in dealing with this major concern. There is much that we can do through indigenous efforts, since our cultural heritage has always been particular about being friendly to nature and environment.

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I am aware that the path of reforms is not a bed of roses, much less so in a democratic country of this type. However, this has been a difficult job, but every country which has attempted it had no illusions that this is also a politically difficult choice. But like many countries, which have attempted liberalization, have worked through it and have performed economic miracles. I am convinced that this is also the appropriate approach for us at this juncture. While there could be differences of opinion on the political plane and differences in the nuances of the reforms, I am confident that every individual who hopes for the best for this country would realize that this is the best option available to us. At the same time, I would like to reiterate with all the emphasis at my command that whether the transition is long or short, the benefit in the interim should spread across the board and the sacrifices required of the society must also be spread across the board underpinned by visibly and transparently equitable regimes. This is yet another way to paraphrase the middle path which has been a standing theme in explaining my vision of the economic reforms process in India.

Mr. President! Your theme is partnership, so let us be partners in this process. It gives me great pleasure in inaugurating the centenary celebrations. Thank you. [applause]

Editorial Urges Greater Effort To Join APEC

BK0501132995 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 31 Dec 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Selective Free Trade"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is little doubt that India should step up its efforts to gain entry into the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation [APEC] forum. Apart from anything else, the size of the market under the APEC umbrella is proof enough of the fact that all members stand to gain significantly if the free-trade area works according to plan. According to one recent estimate, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore form a market worth $642 billions, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia account for another $342 billions, and China $436 billions. Together with the Japanese market, only the Asian component of APEC is worth around $5 trillions, which corresponds to 74 per cent of the European market and 84 per cent of the American market. Being one of the Asian giants, albeit an emerging one, it is natural that India should be a member of this grouping, contributing to it and deriving the benefits which membership entails.

That the country has not been able to include itself among the original members of the forum can be attributed directly to the poor diplomatic effort made by New Delhi and to an ingrained opposition to Indian membership from some of the forum's powerful members. The earlier lack of interest on the part of the Government could perhaps have made some sense if it had persisted. But, if the diplomatic lobbying being currently made is any indication, the perception seems to have changed now. The Ministry of External Affairs officials have been visiting major capitals in the region to plead the case for Indian membership, which in any case cannot materialise before two years for that is when new members will be admitted. Had a serious attempt been made towards inclusion in the forum when the initial discussions were taking place in the late eighties, India today may have figured in the APEC membership, which boasts 18 countries.

Of more interest is the nature of the opposition to Indian membership voiced by some APEC members. At one level, it is innocuous, relating to simple queries about the extent of liberalisation in foreign trade rules, the state of intellectual property rights, and the like. The point has also been made that for India to be an "effective" member of the forum it will have to step up its participation in international trade, which has been unimpressive in recent years.

But there is another dimension which smacks of narrow regionalism, an attitude that is indefensible in the era of the World Trade Organisation [WTO]. It is inexplicable how China, with all its trade "imperfections" in the eyes of the world community (witness the US stand on Beijing's plea to become a founder member of the WTO), has been given a central role in APEC while India, which has passed the GATT test, is considered something of an untouchable. Secondly, it has been suggested that India cannot become a member of the forum because its shores are not washed by the Pacific Ocean. As a guideline there is perhaps nothing objectionable in this, but if an exception can be made in the case of China regarding free-trade principles, there can be no reason why the waters of the oceans cannot be considered to be inseparable.

There is in fact something sinister in the attempts to keep India out of APEC at a time when there appears to be a rapid expansion of the idea of setting up free-trade zones. On November 15, the Bogor Declaration proclaimed that a free-trade area "stretching from New York to Bangkok and from Chile to China would in all likelihood be established by 2020. On December 11, in Miami, President Clinton said that the inclusion of Chile in the North American Free Trade Agreement was "further proof of our intention to complete the free trade area of all the Americas by 2005." Where then does the WTO stand? Free trade zones mean special facilities for members conducting trade among themselves to the exclusion of non-members. Do not these implied barriers in the way of global free trade violate the larger WTO framework?

BJP, Minorities Front Condemn Reported Bhutto Threat

BK0501133095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has decried the closure of Indian Consulate in

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Karachi and its threat of war on the Kashmir issue by Pakistan. The party spokesman, Mr. Krishan Lal Sharma, told newspersons in New Delhi today that the Pakistani prime minister said in an interview to a London-based newspaper that if Kashmir issue is not sorted out, there can be a war. The party called for a review of the country's policies toward Pakistan.

The All India Minorities Front has also condemned the reported threat of a war with India by the Pakistani prime minister. The front in a statement in New Delhi today said that Ms. Bhutto should visualize the gravity of such threats which could be disastrous to the people of Pakistan. The statement said Pakistan should stop interfering in the internal affairs of India and stop violation of human rights on its own territories.

Iran

Official Comments on Air Force Plane Crash

Joint Chief on Death of Commander

LD0601114595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General Mansur Sattari, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, and a number of other Air Force officials were martyred in an air crash last night while returning from a mission. Our correspondent has interviewed General Ali Shahbazi, chief of Joint Staff, at the Martyr Baba'i Base in Esfahan:

[Unidentified correspondent] We were informed that General Sattari, the brave Air Force commander, and a number of others were martyred in an air crash while on a mission. Please tell us about it:

[Shahbazi] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. General Sattari, the brave and combatant commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, and a number of other Air Force officials were unfortunately martyred yesterday. They landed at Esfahan airport on a Jet Star passenger plane. After a few hours, they were leaving Esfahan airport when their plane developed a technical fault a short time after takeoff. They decided to land back at Esfahan airport. Their plane crashlanded while trying to land on the runway. Unfortunately, all 12 on board and the crew joined the status of martyrs. General Sattari, General Yasini, General Ardestani, General Shoja'i, and their other combatant companions were all among the most sincere and self-sacrificing personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Please tell us about the cause of the crash.

[Shahbazi] The cause of the crash is being investigated and naturally technical teams will announce the result of their investigations. We shall announce the outcome of those investigations as soon as they are available, God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Shahbazi] You are welcome. God protect you.

Names of Victims Released

LD0601111095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A funeral service was held in Esfahan at midday today for the Air Force commander, General Mansur Satari, and several commanders of this force. [passage omitted]

After the funeral ceremony, the bodies of these martyrs were taken to terminal four of Shahid Baba'i airport [in Esfahan] to be flown to Tehran.

Names of the martyrs of last night's air crash are as follows: General Satari, General Ardestani, General Yasini, General Razzaqi, General Shoja'i, Colonel Sharifi, Colonel Jamshidi, Major Jam-Manesh, Captain Sardar-Aabadi, Lieutenant Purzad, Lieutenant Mohtashami, and Lieutenant Mohseni.

Iran Air Receives Delivery of 2 Airbus Planes

Purchase 'Breaks' Imposed Sanctions

LD2912124494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One of the two Airbuses purchased by Iran Air, the Islamic Republic of Iran airline, was handed over yesterday to civil aviation officials. In connection with this event and other purchases, Mr. Torkan, minister of road and transport, said:

[Begin recording] [Torkan] During the first socioeconomic development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, our colleagues purchased a total of eight new Airbuses, and added them to the fleet. They are six Fokker F-100's and two Airbus 300-600's. You can see one of the latter now. That is, out of our fleet of 32 aircraft, eight of them are new. The remaining are also in good condition, but we must expand further. We expect to take further effective steps, and God willing, our colleagues will continue this process. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] In view of the sanctions imposed by American arrogance, what effect does the purchase of this aircraft have on demonstrating our country's power?

[Torkan] With the purchase of these two Airbuses, and also those purchased earlier, the sanctions against delivery of aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran has been broken. What the Americans are describing as sanctions, is in fact meants to control the market so as to enable them to reserve a place for their own aircraft

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industry, such as Boeing. Otherwise, the Europeans are working with us; they are working with us at present. Other aircraft manufucturers are cooperating enthusiastically with Iran Air, and this cooperation will continue. [end recording]

New Fleet Named Janbazan

LD3112132394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With the arrival of the second Airbus-300 in Tehran today, a new fleet named Janbazan was established. According to a our correspondent's report, Hasan Shafti, managing director of Iran Air, talked about the effect of the new fleet on the services provided by the country's airlines. He told our correspondent:

[Begin Shafti recording] The arrival of this aircraft and the previous ones purchased is a step toward replacing Iran Air's old fleet. In fact, with the arrival of this new aircraft a number of the old aircraft has become obsolete. Therefore, we cannot expect an increase in the quantity of our services, but we are certain that obvious improvements can be seen in passenger safety and security, and comfort. [end recording]

The Iran Air managing director also referred to the navigation of Iran Air aircraft, particularly the new Airbus-300, by Iranian pilots and said: We have the best flight and service engineers, and our flight cadre has seen various training and is most skillful.

He added: With the establishment of a renovation and manpower training center, Iran Air no longer needs to send its flight cadre abroad for training.

Nateq-Nuri on Success of Second Five-Year Plan

LD2912173094 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Majles speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, says the success of the Second Five-Year Plan is guaranteed by the experience gained in the implemetation of the First Five-Year Plan.

In an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES published today, Nateq-Nuri said the government has set its development targets in accordance with five-year plans. The First Five-Year Plan (1990-94) has been completed and the second (1995-1999) has just been approved by the Majles and will start implementation at the start of the Iranian year on March 21.

Nateq-Nuri added that there are two main features which are being highlighted by the authors of the plan, including the agricultrual sector and social justice.

A mountaineer and lover of various sports, Nateq-Nuri said that special attention has been paid to the oppressed sector of society which is one of the main objectives of the islamic revolution.

He further added that the second plan continues to make provision for basic consumer goods, shch as cooking oil and sugar, to be made available to the low-income group of society through the coupon scheme.

"There are also plans to increase relief funds and/or committees for the poor, plus a special fund to be made available to students for higher studies and research", Nateq-Nuri said.

He said there will be certain drawbacks in the first plan such as "our failure to privatize our economy".

He said that Iranian officials now have enough experience and are certain of where to start. He hinted that the past experience provided valuable lessons which will guarantee success in efforts to privatize the economy.

The speaker, echoing the words of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said that he is quite optimistic about the future of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Concerning the plan for setting up an international parliamentary union for Islamic countries, Nateq-Nuri said that several parliamentary heads from Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan and Kuwait, etc. have exchanged views on the plan.

The said countries all welcomed the idea that the secretariat be based in Tehran, he added.

"When there is a European parliament which undertakes certain important parliamentary affairs in Europe, then why should there not be a union of Islamic parliaments?" he said.

Responding to a question, Nateq-Nuri said "there are certain provisions laying the procedure for the amendment of the constitution and we have to follow that procedure in which the parliament, the approval of the supreme leader and the expediency council are a must."

He, then referred to a proposed amendment of the constitution paving the way for a third term for President Rafsanjani.

It is to be recalled that the Iranian constitution currently allows only two terms for the presidency.

Rafsanjani, in a recent television interview commenting on the same subject, said that he personally does not consider this to be in the interest of history and society if the constitution is amended for the sake of one person.

On the possible candidacy for the presidency, he said that he works for the revolution no matter what post he is holding he will do whatever it will be in the interest of the revolution.

Nateq-Nuri had the earlier experience of working with the reconstruction effort, as interior minister, Majles deputy, deputy speaker and currently as speaker.

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*Funds Earmarked for Agricultural Sector Development

95LA0067D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Nov 94 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15 (IRNA)—Some Rls. 600b have been earmarked to be paid in subsidies annually to the agriculture sector during the Second Five-Year Development Plan, a member of the Majlis agriculture commission, Morteza Shayesteh told IRNA Monday [14 November].

It is projected that the subsidies will help the sector to register a 4.5 growth rate during the plan, Shayesteh said.

Shayesteh also said that those industrial or commercial organizations which are indirectly linked to the agricultural sector should keep pace with the growth in the agricultural sector.

On bottlenecks in the agriculture sector, Shayesteh said small plots of farm lands pose the main problem. He added that farming in small plots of land are not cost-effective.

He stressed that integration of small farming lands will boost productivity and at the same time saves irrigation water considerably.

Referring to agricultural projects, Shayesteh said Khuzestan sugar-cane development project is a major project which will create 50,000 new jobs.

Upon completion, the project will bring more than 70,000 hectares of land under cultivation. He added that sugar-cane production will be around 700,000 tons by the end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan, meeting the domestic need.

Graduate Level Students To Double During 2d Plan

LD0201155195 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Busher, Jan. 2, IRNA—Deputy Culture and Higher Education Minister Mohammad Soleymani announced here Monday [2 January] that 4,380 students are being admitted to universities at the graduate level annually and hoped the figure would double by end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-1999).

Furthermore, Soleymani hoped the number of students to be accepted in post-graduate level would reach 1,000 annually in the course of the second plan.

He put at zero the number of students engaged in Ph.D. level before the triumph of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

As for undergraduate level Soleymani told IRNA that priority would be given to qualitative rather than quantitative improvement of bachelor's degree in the second plan.

He said by the end of the First Development Plan (1989-1994) there was a rise of 300,000 in the number of students engaged in study at the country's universities and scientific institutions, that is equal to the total number of university students before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

He added that 2,500 students had been sent to Canada, France, Australia and Russia during the First Development Plan to pursue their studies both in graduate and post-graduate levels.

Based on a bill ratified by the Majlis, said Soleymani, 1,000 students are to be sent annually to foreign countries in the second plan to complete their studies.

He added that about 300 foreign students are studying in Iran at present and that based on a bill passed by the Majlis recently foreign students can pursue their studies in Iran on their own expenses.

Yazdi on Introduction of New Judicial System

LD0501200895 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormozgan), Jan. 5, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here today that 35 per cent of all courthouses in Iran are styled consistent with the new judicial administrative system that comprises of dichotomous courts with two broad jurisdictions. He said in certain provinces such as Yazd, Hamadan and Hormozgan the new dichotomy of general courts and revolution courts are in full effect. The judiciary chief said the new revised administrative system of the courts would have to be in force nationally by the end of the current Second 5-Year Development Plan.

Asked to comment on the query into the ill-fated Iranian Fokker plane that crashed near Natanz, Esfahan Province, last month, he said that preliminary facts had been gathered and that the case was ready to be heard. He also commented that the problem of drug-trafficking in the province of Hormozgan could be tackled by the adoption and implementation of wise policies workable in the province.

Editorial on Israel's Anti-Iranian Remarks

NC0501212595 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Israel's Nuclear Capability—A Threat to Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Last Friday [30 December] a top official of the Zionist regime, Dayan, announced that Israel may attack what he referred to as "nuclear installations of Iran", next year.

Making such remarks at a time when the Zionist regime faces a serious crisis, are closer to rumbling than sensible statements of a wise statesman.

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Indeed, the Zionist regime, from its very inception, has launched an expansionist, annexationist policy. In order to achieve its goal, i.e., greater Israel, it has even acquired a nuclear bomb.

Israel is not a signatory to the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and so far has not allowed any international body to inspect its nuclear installations. Therefore, if there is any real threat to regional peace, it is from the expansionist Zionist regime.

Iran is a signatory to the NPT and has employed nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes. This has been confirmed by International Atomic Energy Agency. Therefore, it cannot be even perceived that there is a slightest threat from Iran to the Zionist regime in this regard. Hence, Israel's threat to attack Iran's nuclear power plants are indeed feelers put out for assessing the reaction of the Islamic world.

Dayan's statement is in effect a threat against the whole Islamic world, and this is why the Zionists spare no effort in ascertaining the reaction of other Muslim countries in order to devise their mischievous plans. Moreover, Israel tries to project itself as a gendarme of the interests of arrogant powers. But such statements not only would not protect the interests of the arrogant powers, but will endanger regional as well as international peace and stability.

In order to divert the attention of regional and international organizations from its nuclear weapon, Israel tries top project Iran as a potential nuclear threat.

Although any attack by the Zionist regime on Iran's nuclear power plants is far from expectations, history bears witness that such an attack would be repelled by any means with irreparable repercussions.

Sarakhs Customs Opens for Trade with Turkmenistan

LD0501183695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With the opening of Sarakhs International Customs House, the third route for the transit of goods and passengers between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan via Khorasan Province's borders opened up. [passage omitted]

A 135 meter-long bridge over the Tajan River on the border, links the two Customs houses of Iran and Turkmenistan on each side of the border.

It is planned to spend a further 7.5 billion rials on the extension of Sarakhs customs.

Vice President Mohajerani Receives Palestinian Envoy

LD0301121995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hojjat ol-Eslam Ata'ollah] Mohajerani, vice president and head of the committee for the support of the Islamic Revolution of the people of Palestine, at a meeting with the ambassador of Palestine to Tehran, emphasized the clear and unchanging stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the question of Palestine. He noted that the governments and organizations that toe the same line as the Jerusalem-occupying regime, distance themselves to the same extent from their own people.

Mr. Mohajerani added: Unity between Palestine's revolutionary groups could turn into a clear pivot of resistance toward the Jerusalem-occupying regime's greed.

According to the Central News Unit, the ambassador of Palestine, on his part, reported on developments in the region and the resistance of the Palestinians.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Bosnia's Ganic

LD0501151495 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 5, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday [5 January] received Bosnia-Herzegovina Vice- President Ejup Ganic.

The president praised the brave resistance put up by the Bosnian Muslims against savage aggression of Serb forces and reiterated Iran's support for the just struggle of the Bosnian Muslims.

Rafsanjani underlined the neccessity of strengthening the unity and coordination of Bosnian and Croatian forces in order to save the Balkans from a tragedy created by the Serbs.

He also emphasized continous support of the Islamic world for the Bosnian Muslims and taking deterent measures by the international community and world countries to end the Serbian aggression.

The Bosnian vice-president said that the Bosnian Muslims appreciate Iran's humanitarin aids to Bosnia in the most sensitive juncture of history and will never forget them.

He added that the Bosnian Muslims have realized that if they fight for their national and spiritual identity by depending on the Islamic world, their future in the Balkans would be promising.

Velayati, Ganic Discuss Bosnia Crisis

LD0501174795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic met with Foreign Minister Velayati this evening and discussed the Bosnian crisis.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, Ganic thanked Iran for its aid and support for the people of Bosnia, and explained the latest political and military

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situation in Bosnia. Criticizing the stances of the West regarding the resolution of the Bosnian crisis, he said: The West, by disregarding the Serbs' crimes and their violation of Bosnian territorial sovereignty, has become a barrier to the implementation of law and human rights in that country.

Mr. Velayati, stressing the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has supported the Bosnian people from the start, said: The West uses human rights merely as a weapon to impose its illegitimate demands. Referring to the future joint meeting of the Islamic states' contact group and the west—to be held in Geneva—our country's foreign minister said: It is the Islamic states' natural right to support the Bosnian people. Expressing the concern of the Iranian leaders, government, and nation over what is going on in Bosnia, he added: The Bosnian people must always be prepared to defend themselves because the enemies of Bosnia do not intend to recognize the rights of the people of Bosnia.

British-U.S. Differences in Gulf Region Analyzed

NC0601083895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Jan 95 p 12

[Commentary by 'Ali Mazru'i: "The Persian Gulf Region and the Methuselah of Colonialism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, a report citing a British diplomat was disseminated thus: "Britain is very concerned about the signing of a peace accord between Jordan and the Zionist [all attributions of word "Zionist" to British officials are as published] regime under U.S. supervision. The U.S. objective in the attainment of peace accords between Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon with the Zionist regime is to strengthen its base in the region." In conclusion, the British diplomat added: "The presence of the United States as the coordinator of the peace accords in the region is in conflict with the longstanding presence of the European countries in this region." Following this report, Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, also stated: "The security of the Persian Gulf will be the most important issue for the British Government in the Middle East. Its importance is even greater than the Arab compromise with the Zionist regime." In his address on the new Christian year, he referred to Iran and Iraq as two countries that threaten the interests of Britain and its allies. He added: "Tackling these two countries will be an ongoing and difficult process for Britain." What is interesting is that prior to this, Mr. Hurd had said: "Despite the differences between British and U.S. policies, the United States is Britain's best ally." Such remarks by British officials merely revive the specter of "the Methuselah of colonialism" and "Great Britain!"

It seems as if the British echelons have not relinquished their dreams of their past! Many years ago, the colonialist empire of Britain was destroyed and the crafty old fox has been transformed into a decrepit and wizened wreck pushed into the background by its very best ally, the U.S. Government. It can merely give out some helpless moans from time to time.

Perhaps these moans are the last cries of this feeble and powerless fox to its powerful friend, who apparently does not care to give it even a little share despite their past friendship! This is because after the oil war and the Arab-Israel compromise, the United States sought to conquer the entire region. Ostensibly the above remarks indicate how far the European governments are lagging behind, especially Britain, which was the vanguard of the region and is lamenting its fate now!

It is extremely regrettable that the regional countries have not learned a lesson from the past and cannot fathom the depths of such remarks as to what the Western governments are seeking in the Persian Gulf. Do they never pause to wonder why these governments yearn for a foothold in the Persian Gulf, and so on? In fact, if the regional countries had been united and unified on the basis of the common denominators of religion and national interests or even on the basis of a union of smaller powers, they would have been able to close the path to the infiltration of the diabolical schemes of the Western governments, whose motives are nothing but pillage and plunder of the region. Would this old wreck then been able to chant such litanies to demand its share?

Is it not time for the regional countries to wake up to the truth and to capitalize on the relatively favorable circumstances to revamp their policies for the interests of the region and the Muslim nations and thus deliver themselves from the fiendish traps of the imperialist-Zionist satans?

The fact that the hearts of the Western governments are constantly displaying concern about the Persian Gulf region and are using its security as a pretext for their presence is merely a ploy to deceive most of the heads of the regional governments. Britain, which is whining with such abjectness, exported nearly 4.5 million pounds worth of high quality arms to regional countries in the past year. If the region is calm, then where would the British and other Western governments sell their weapons?

Thus, it is necessary that the security of the Persian Gulf should be at the top of the agenda of all the regional countries and they should assume this responsibility so that there may be no room for foreign infiltration. The Persian Gulf's security was endangered when the Westerners were introduced into it and this insecurity continues because of a foreign presence amid fraternal and co-religionist nations.

The last point worth mentioning is that fanning discord and violence among regional nations is an old ploy of the British and one can detect the sparks that ignited the conflagration of war in recent years in the region in the dossiers of the espionage and intelligence [previous word in English] services, the CIA, and the Mosad.

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Accordingly, the countries of the region—especially Iran and Iraq—should realize the current circumstances and glean from the policies of dual containment and similar remarks by British officials that the enemy is lying in wait and that prevailing differences pave the way for his infiltration. The sole means of combating the enemy's influence is greater closeness among one another. Similar closeness between Iran and Iraq would be a basic step in reshaping the political face of the region, which would foil the Western powers' policy of dual containment.

Daily on Future Implications of Bahrain Unrest

NC3012182294 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 24 Dec 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Staying Power in Bahrain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the exact time that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] was being convened in the Bahraini capital of Manama, demonstrations protesting against the political stranglehold were underway in the country. Bahrain is one of those traditional countries of the Persian Gulf that has a political structure with considerable staying power. Even though this trait characterizes nearly all the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, it has had a more decisive impact on the rift between the people and the government of Bahrain because of various reasons.

Ostensibly, the people want political expansion and the reopening of the country's parliament. As usual, the protests have been accompanied by extensive arrests and efforts to make it seem like they are being directed from abroad. This is one of the most commonly recognized tactics, but the question is: Will this tactic be successful in view of the conditions prevailing in the region?

The fact is that no one in Bahrain or any other country believes that the problem can be solved by stepping up political suffocation. The littoral countries in the Persian Gulf are now in the throes of a variety of political currents that are different from any they had witnessed in the past. The oil war in the Persian Gulf exacerbated the vulnerability of the tribal traditional regimes and heightened the anticipation that the Arab shaykhs would accept the principle of popular participation in national affairs and would harmonize their governments with new conditions and expectations.

The crux of the matter is that the present regimes in the region have lost the ability to harmonize themselves with current circumstances. In better words, this possibility has been lost. The fact that they are making the effort to seek foreign links for the internal crises in the dynastic governments will make no difference whatsoever to the nature of the issues, even though it may bring some gains to the present governments from the propaganda aspect.

The Bahraini Government has consistently sought to distance itself from the regional crises. Therefore, the protests and demonstrations in Bahrain are significant from this perspective. Besides, we must also take into account that Bahrain is an important base that is at the disposal of the United States and that the presence of U.S. forces has not ensured the stability of any country. On the contrary, it has acted as the main catalyst for disrupting the political, social, and economic equilibrium. Apparently the Bahraini officials have not paid the necessary attention to such experiences and the current unrest is the price that they are now being forced to pay.

It is rather debatable that the Bahraini amir is in a position to seriously consider the demands of the people, including the release of the religious leaders. It is a rare phenomenon for such regimes to bow down to popular will until and unless the pressures proliferate and the very bases of the regime are threatened with serious dangers. The conditions in Bahrain are still not close to such a juncture but are not so far that the Bahraini court should feel complacent.

It appears at first glance that the government may seek to send the protesters from the streets back to their homes by means of force and subsequently it may, after much introspection, turn its attention to conform to the new circumstances and the proliferating popular demands. It is necessary to note that among the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf Bahrain will not be able to take any constructive step in this regard in isolation. It is envisaged that all kinds of decisions that are aimed at a semblance of national reconciliation and may culminate in conceding some concessions to the protesting masses will first be discussed at the Gulf Cooperation Council as one country will not be able to adapt its government to new realities all by itself.

Of course, under the current circumstances in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf it is difficult to envision that their governments will move in a positive direction, especially since the general impression is that popular movements are directed from abroad. It is more likely that the Persian Gulf countries would coordinate efforts toward suppression.

The fact that the demonstrations in Bahrain were held simultaneously with the GCC summit should serve as a warning to any conjecture or theory of an extraneous plot that would only make the acceptance of reality more difficult. At the GCC summit session there was mention of a uniform approach to what is known outside the region as Islamic fundamentalism and less attention was paid to the actual dangers stemming from the inertia of regimes and their disinclination to broaden social cooperation and popular participation in politics.

It is clear that this problem is not confined to Bahrain alone and all the Arab countries are suffering from this affliction. The difference is that in Bahrain it surfaced more overtly. From an analytical point of view it can be deduced that all the countries will sooner or later face a similar situation even though the level of intensity will vary according to the distinctive domestic circumstances and the scale of violence in the respective countries.

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It can be surmised that the political unrest in the littoral Arab countries of the Persian Gulf will continue until these countries attain the necessary political balance. However, it is not clear that such a political balance would be achieved if these regimes adapted to new realities or if they were replaced by new forces with a better understanding of regional and international developments. There are too many variables to allow for any reliable predictions.

Thus, it appears that the future political face of the Arab Persian Gulf region will be different, and most of the observers of regional issues seem inclined to concur. In any case, Bahrain is experiencing unprecedented political unrest that is aimed at attaining greater political participation of the people in the country's destiny with the establishment of a parliament.

The fact that the current regime in Bahrain has the requisite capability of giving a favorable response to such demands will have a definite bearing on the future of Bahrain. However, it must be borne in mind that every development in Bahrain will have a direct impact on all the Arab countries, showing the significance for both sides of the issue, that is, the governments and the people.

By resisting the governments can only serve to escalate the dimensions of the crisis until their own ultimate downfall. At present, the demands of the people have not assumed such proportions, and this is rooted in the general conservative attitude that has historical antecedents in the Arab world. It is not clear how long these regimes can maintain this dispassionate inertia for the perpetuation of power, but it certainly will not continue indefinitely.

*Qeshm Launch-Building Industry Flourishing

95LA0063A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar Abbas, Nov. 11 (IRNA)—Launch-building is among one of the most important industries of the Qeshm Island Free Trade Zone, and of the 18 launch manufacturers in Hormozegan Province 13 are based on Qeshm, the largest island in the Persian Gulf.

On Tuesday last, one of the Qeshm Island factories sold a launch to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] for $100,000. It took one year to build the said launch ordered as per the specifications by the UAE.

The passenger, cargo and traditional fishing launches built on Qeshm and elsewhere in Hormozegan command a good market in most Persian Gulf states.

The timber used in the making of such launches is found cheap and in abundance in Iran.

In related news on Wednesday, a fiber glass fishing trawler, named "Shurideh" was launched in Bandar Abbas waters.

The 15 meter by 3.3 meter vessel, equipped with a 140-horsepower engine has a capacity of eight tons and cost Rls. 160m to build.

It was built by the fiber glass industries, a subsidiary of the Kerman Auto Company.

*New Tax Imposed on Cigarettes

95LA0067C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15—The Majlis (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) ratified a bill here Tuesday [15 November] according to which Rls. 5 will be levied as tax on every locally-produced or imported cigarette, effective March 21, 1995.

The taxation obtained will be given to the Physical Education Organization which in turn will be invested in the development of sport centers and improvement of public health. In addition, all industrial units are requested to allocate one-thousandth of their annual revenue to the Physical Education Organization for the construction and development of sport complexes.

Also, according to an amendment proposed by the Administrative and Recruitment Commission of the Majlis, all ministries, government organizations and companies were obliged to consult issues related to their annual budget with the Administrative and Recruitment Commission prior to submitting their budget proposals to the related bodies.

Taking into account the increased number of car accidents on major highways linking big cities, and based on another amendment proposed by the Housing and Urban Development Commission of the Majlis, priority will be given to the renovation and construction of new inter-city highways.

Pakistan

Media View U.S. Defense Secretary Perry's Visit

U.S. Preventing Islamic Fundamentalism

BK0601071095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Perry Mission"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US Defence Secretary William Perry's forthcoming visit to Pakistan is being seen as a reflection of Washington's added importance to South Asia. The high-powered US delegation of 40 to Pakistan and India, that includes two Assistant Secretaries, will arrive in Islamabad on the 10th, and then leave for New Delhi after a couple of days. The two sides are expected to discuss a wide range of issues related to bilateral ties and the regional scenario, but are likely to largely focus on "finding ways and means of expanding Pakistan-US defence cooperation". While the Pressler Amendment

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remains a constant reminder that Pakistan has been singled out for US browbeating and not even allowed to obtain F-16s as purely business transaction, it is rather hard to imagine as to what would be the purpose and limits of defence cooperation between Pakistan and the US. The Foreign Office [FO] has been trying to put across the message that no "dubious deal" is behind Washington's renewed interest, and Islamabad has neither retreated from its public stance on any issue of vital national interest, nor offered any new concessions to arouse American concern for regional security. There is no longer any US pressure on Pakistan to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] unilaterally or to roll back its nuclear programme, a FO spokesman said on Wednesday. He, however, hinted at what could be the motivation for Perry's mission. Quoting a senior US official, the FO spokesman said, "The US and Pakistan have an interest in working together for the construction of progressive modern states in an arch which extends beyond South Asia, the Persian Gulf and Central Asia."

The American anxiety over the rise of so-called Islamic fundamentalism is known to all and sundry, and it wouldn't be surprising if Washington is thinking of establishing a new axis to contain its spillover. Thus, Perry's agenda for "defence cooperation" may well be a blueprint for assigning Pakistan the role of a troubleshooter in the region which the US sees as the potential source of thereat to, what they term as, the "American way of life". Interestingly, Washington appears to have exonerated Pakistan of the "terrorist connection" and is willing to acknowledge it as a "progressive modern" state. The Perry mission has, however, evoked a sharp reaction among the country's religious parties who have announced plans to stage protest rallies during the US delegation's visit. Currying favour with the Americans at any cost has, unfortunately, been the order of the day among the country's ruling elite, albeit we have been for quite long taken for a ride in the name of "shared perceptions". Hopefully, Islamabad would think twice before agreeing to join in any campaign designed to serve the US interests rather than enabling Pakistan to meet the challenge to its national security.

'New Partnership' Seen

BK0601081795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jan 95

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While the stage is set for the visit to Pakistan next week of the top United States official, the secretary defense, William Perry, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has spoken of an improvement in Pakistan-United States relations. She observed that the visit of the U.S. presidential mission only four months ago and the forthcoming visit of the U.S. defense secretary which is taking place after 10 years were manifestations of the improved climate of Pak-U.S. relations.

Defense Secretary Perry, who will be in Pakistan from 10-12 January, would come at the head of a 40-member delegation that includes high officials, such as the commander of the United States Central Command, General Peay; the assistant secretary of state, Robin Raphel; and the assistant defense secretary, Joseph Nye. Commenting on the Perry visit, a spokesman of Pakistan's Foreign Office stated categorically that the United States was neither asking Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally nor was Pakistan being pressed to roll back its nuclear program. The purpose of the Perry visit, the spokesman clarified, was to discuss the strategic environment in South Asia, to preserve the longstanding military relations between Pakistan and the United States, and whenever possible to expand these. This is to happen despite the application of the infamous Pressler Amendment and would cover areas such just as joint military exercises, (?regular) exchange of information, and common strategic perception. As may be appreciated, these are important and sensitive issues and unless relations between the two states were improving they would not even contemplate an exchange of views on them.

In this context, the observations made by a very senior United States official belonging to the U.S. armed forces headquarters, the Pentagon, are pertinent. He said that during his South Asian visit Secretary Perry would attempt to establish for the United States a new post-Cold War security relationship focussing on peacekeeping and confidence building with Pakistan and India. Perry would seek to build a defense relationship on a new, evenhanded basis. The Pentagon official said Perry would not urge Pakistan and India to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty although the subject of arms limitation might be discussed. He confirmed that Perry would explore the possibility of cooperation in the field of international peacekeeping, information sharing, and training.

The United States, it could be recalled, had earlier been insisting on Pakistan to give up its nuclear programs unilaterally. It has now accepted Pakistan's position that it is neither fair nor feasible for Pakistan to accept unilateral obligations and restraints regarding the nuclear issue.

However, Pakistan, as always, is willing to work with the United States to evoke regional and global understanding to address the two country's shared concerns about the nuclear proliferation. Pakistan believes in good relations with every country. It attaches prime importance to the relations with the United States, which is the world's sole superpower and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and with whom Pakistan has a long history of friendship and cooperation, particularly in the military and political fields. It is gratifying that the two countries are now forging a new partnership of peace and progress for mutual benefit.

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U.S. Seeks 'Even-Handed' Approach

BK0601075895 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 6 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "An Even-Handed Approach?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a Foreign Office spokesman Pakistan is no longer being pressurised by the United States to take any unilateral measures with regard to its nuclear programme and that it now accepts Pakistan's stand on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. The observation is significant not least because it comes virtually on the eve of the visit to Pakistan by US Defence Secretary William Perry. Given that the NPT review meeting is scheduled for April this year, there has been considerable speculation here to the effect that the purpose of this visit may well be to force Pakistan to sign the NPT unilaterally. The Foreign Office has obviously sought to put such fears to rest by suggesting that the US is now generally interested in a more even-handed approach towards India and Pakistan. In this context it has also indicated that Pakistan would use the opportunity afforded by the visit to urge the US to review the discriminatory and country-specific Pressler Amendment that remains a key obstacle to the delivery of the F-16 aircraft already paid for by Pakistan and is at 'variance' with the US desire to be even-handed. However, while the Foreign Office may be justified in its belief that the US is no longer pushing Pakistan for unilateral restraints on its nuclear programme, there is little to suggest any serious move on its part to review the Pressler Amendment in line with the imperatives of a more even-handed approach.

Meanwhile, according to a press report the US defence secretary will be visiting Pakistan and India with a new agenda that lays emphasis not so much on non-proliferation as on a generally improved regional environment with higher levels of security made possible by neighbouring states' commitment to greater transparency vis-a-vis defence plans and military spending as well as to peacekeeping and the containment of conflicts in the area. Reportedly, the secretary will be briefing both Pakistan and India on the salutary effects of similar confidence-building measures on Sino-US relations. At one level such an approach makes eminent sense and would make it more possible for the states in the region to run their own affairs without unnecessary external interference. But, in order to be effective it requires a genuine desire on the part of all concerned to seek a resolution of the issues that have engendered and sustained conflict. However, India, being clearly the bigger and more powerful of the two states, has consistently failed to demonstrate any such intent while pursuing an ambitious nuclear and missile development programme. It is precisely this factor that has forced Pakistan to seek third-party mediation in the case of Kashmir, for instance. While the reported US desire, then, to be more even-handed is encouraging it would be of little help if India were to continue to find in the new approach adequate room to pursue its hegemonic designs in the region and its brutal policy in Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Government, LTTE Hold Second Round of Talks

Delegation Pre-Briefed by President

BK0201163095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Sri Lankan Government delegation is leaving Colombo for Jaffna tomorrow for the second round of talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The members of the delegation were briefed by the president, Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga, in Colombo this evening. A senior military officer has been included in the team.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1544 GMT on 2 January in a similar item adds: "The Sri Lankan government Monday [2 January] announced the resumption of suspended peace talks with separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in a bid to work out a ceasefire. President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office said that a five-member government team would begin negotiations with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on Tuesday. Talks will be in LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula. 'The President has directed the delegation to discuss matters relating to a declaration of cessation of hostilities,' the brief statement said adding that there will be talks on rehabilitation of the war-torn regions. The government delegation will be headed by Kumaratunga's most senior official, Kusumsiri Balapatabendi. The team will comprise of two military officers drawn from the army and the navy."]

LTTE Releases 4 Policemen

BK0301130795 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1145 GMT 3 Jan 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Jan 3 (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] today announced the release of four more policemen it was holding prisoner as a gesture of goodwill to mark the second round of peace talks between the government and the LTTE.

They are Saman Athukorale, Chandrasiri, E. R. Samarakkody and Y. D Dharmasiri.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH the four freed policemen, held captive since June 1991, are expected to accompany the five member official delegation when they return to Colombo later this evening from Jaffna on board a Sri Lanka Air Force plane. On September 2 last year, the LTTE released 10 of 19 policemen being held prisoner following president Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who was then prime minister,

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announcing that the Peoples Alliance government was partially lifting the economic embargo on Jaffna and removing restrictions on 28 items of goods. Later, another policeman, who was sick, was also released.

Editorial Calls For Cautious Steps

BK0301011895 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 19 Dec 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Next Step"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has been clearly conveying the government's firm stand at various levels.

It is imperative that the government's determination and commitment to continue the peace process be made quite clear at the international and national levels.

In the present context, there have been conflicting views among the people on the government's next move. If the efforts to find a solution to the country's ethnic conflict are not carried forward step by step with due care, there is a likelihood of their being elusive.

Evil-minded hardline political forces are looking for an opportunity to distribute false information to the people. This should not be taken lightly.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] also should positively recognize the amount of interest the government takes in the peace process. Nobody should undermine the fact that only due to the tough stance of the LTTE, the country's political forces are calling for an amicable and peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict.

At the same time, the Tamil parties and their leadership, who have representation in the parliament, also should not consider less important the need for their vital contribution to resolve the enthnic conflict. It is their democratic responsibility.

The path chosen by the government to carry forward the peace process has been temporarily blocked by the antagonistic tendencies of various forces.

Opportunist forces are trying to exploit the issues such as widespread labor unrest, failure in the economic field, and price hikes.

People should come forward to clearly understand this truth. It is not an easy task to liberate the country from the corruption and human rights violations of the past.

Even in the midst of a difficult situation of concentrating on several issues simultaneously, the government has not gone back on its promises and is carefully reviewing its election pledges one by one.

Due to the fighting in the northeast, the country's human resources have been shattered and scattered. Because of erroneous propaganda at the international level, the country has been disgraced. This is the outcome of a stubborn attitude of refusing to understand the realities of the past.

With a view to clearing away the stains of our past history, the president recently met with foreign diplomats and explained to them the peace process and the government's commitment to peace.

The northeast issue is a national problem. All the peace efforts failed only because this problem was treated as a problem of terrorism and steps taken accordingly.

The call for the rights of a national ethnic group was twisted and termed a problem of terrorism, which is tantamount to genocide. Those who gave a call for such rights were described as terrorists and were meted out treatment accordingly. This country is now facing the outcome of such acts.

The next round of talks should reflect the desire of the government and the LTTE for peace. We would like to remind everyone that the next step should be taken keeping in mind that the Tamils and the Sinhalese have realized the havoc wreaked by war and want to establish peace now.

Official Reports on Outcome

BK0401140795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ground was laid in Jaffna yesterday for a cessation of hostilitities, the opening of a safe passage to the peninsula and the rehabilitation of the North. Presidential Secretary K. Balapatabendi told journalists at the Ratmalana Airport on in his return from the 8-hour talks that they had reached agreement on most of the major issues concerning the cessation of hostilities. The president will study the areas of agreement and take a final decision. He and the other four members of the delegation told the media that a document will be received from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] today and a final decision on the effective date of the cessation of hostilities will be taken after that.

Mr. Balapatabendi said that agreement was reached on many matters concerning the implementation and monitoring of the cessation of hostilities. He said that the cessation of hostilities will become effective before the visit of Pope John Paul II on the 20th of this month.

The LTTE yesterday released four policemen as a token of good will and they told they will release two more policemen in their custody as a token of appreciation of the bold stand taken by the president. They also said they have decided on that course to show their respect and gratitude to the president. The four released policemen were brought to Colombo by the five-member government delegation.

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Mr. Balapatabenmdi described the talks as productive and friendly. He said the LTTE delegation asked that the Pooneryn Road be opened be public. The government delegation offered to open the Elephant Pass Road. Mr. Balapatabendi said that the government delegation presented a comprehensive 59-billion rupee plan to reconstruct and rehabilitate the Northern Province. The LTTE delegation promised to make its observations to the government within a week. They agreed on demarcating the areas (?officially).

Next Round Set for 14 Jan

BK0501123295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The next round of talks between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will take place on the 14th of this month in Jaffna. This was disclosed by cabinet spokesman and media minister Dharmasiri Senanayake at yesterday's weekly cabinet briefing in Colombo. He said that the LTTE has agreed that there would be a cessation of hostilities commencing shortly. He said that the details of implementation were discussed at length and most issues were resolved satisfactorily at the second round of talks in Jaffna.

The cabinet spokesman said that the government proposed the setting up of committees to deal with any violation of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities. These committees will consist government, LTTE and foreign representatives. Mr. Senanayake announced that President Chandrika Kumaratunga is expected to brief and provide further details of the second round of talks at a news conference tomorrow afternoon at the parliamentary complex.

The news release from the presidential secretariat said that the LTTE was appreciative of the mass mandate given to the PA [People's Alliance] government and President Chandrika Kumaratunga which they perceived as a rejection of communal and racial politics in the country. The LTTE leaders have said that the Tamil people have expressed their confidence and faith in the president and are hopeful that she would successfully solve the problem.

The LTTE said that they released the four police officers as a gesture of confidence, faith, trust and hope in the president. The government's scheme [was] suggested to the LTTE at Tuesday's talks that the two access routes—the Elephant Pass and (Tangipiti)—be opened to and from Jaffna. The opening of the Elephant Pass Road was proposed with the objective of facilitating the movement of heavy vehicular traffic required for the reconstruction of the northern region and for the economic [development] and speedy transport of food supplies. The government also believes that the opening of this road would enable the pilgrims further north to participate in the ceremony connected with the visit of Pope John Paul II later this month. The news release also said that the president and the government appreciated the warm cordiality shown to its delegation by the LTTE leaders and the gesture of goodwill by releasing the four police officers.

Cease-Fire Agreement Effective 8 Jan

BK0601010495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, have agreed to end the fighting in the northeast with effect from Sunday [8 January]. Officials sources said in Colombo that President Chandrika Kumaratunga and the LTTE chief, Mr. Prabhakaran, exchanged five communications to this effect yesterday through the International Committee of the Red Cross. The agreement on the cease-fire was reached during the second round of talks between the government delegation and a team of LTTE representatives in the rebel-held northern Jaffna on Tuesday [3 Jan]. The International Committee of the Red Cross will help in monitoring the cease-fire. Mrs. Kumaratunga is scheduled to announce details of the cease-fire and a political package aimed at resolving the Tamil minority ethnic conflict later.

President Announces Truce

BK0601113695 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0943 GMT 6 Jan 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 06 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in a major policy statement delivered this morning at the ceremonial opening of Parliament, announced that there would be a cessation of hostilities between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] from Sunday (8 January).

The president told a packed house that the cessation of hostilities, which the government sees as a prelude to peace talks, will usher in a new era of peace, justice, and equality enlightened by the humane values of brotherhood and harmony among all communities.

A package of proposals with regard to the devolution of power would be presented to the LTTE shortly. This would form the basis for a negotiated political settlement. The government desired not peace at any cost, but peace with honour. The dignity and self-esteem of all parties will be buttressed by the proposed solutions which will be compatible with the aspirations of all ethnic and cultural groups, while the interests of the majority community will be safeguarded.

Turning to the economy, President Kumaratunga said that there is still time for Sri Lanka to attract the major players in the world's financial arena to Colombo. The government's strategies for an efficient and competitive

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telecommunication service, development of the Colombo port have the broad support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the donor community.

Every effort will be made to attract appropriate foreign investment, in particular to target the world's leading companies and fund managers to invest in Sri Lanka. This is essential to expand the industrial and financial sectors and to gain continuing access to advanced technologies and export markets. The government reaffirms its commitment made in the economic policy statement last September that there will be no adverse change in labour policy relating to foreign investment.

Dealing with industry, the president said the government envisages a programme of action in respect of industrial policy, which is based on the experience of the high performing economies of Asia. The government will foster environmentally friendly and sustainable industrial growth through the establishment of macroeconomic stability which would lead to lower inflation and interest rates, will provide an open and transparent legal framework and a market-friendly investment climate to the private sector, the present system of investment incentives will be changed appropriately. The government will also assist the establishment of efficient small and medium scale industries. A skills development fund will be inaugurated to establish an effective system of skills training.

She described the 'Samurdhi' (prosperity) programme as the government's social safety net which will generate jobs and will enhance human development among the poor through investments in health, nutrition, education, and vocational training to alleviate poverty on a sustainable basis.

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